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Southeast Asia Report



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30 JUNE 1986

SOUTHEAST ASIA REPORT

CONTENTS

LAOS

Vientiane Industry Chief Views Weaknesses, SRV Ties (VIENTIANE MAI, 3 Apr 86)	1
'Talk' Blames Khukrit Party for Thai Policies (PASASON, 18 Apr 86)	3
'Talk': U.S. Stockpile in Thailand 'Threat to Stability' (PASASON, 19 Apr 86)	4
Saisomphon Phomvihan Notes Importance of Family Economy (PASASON, various dates)	5
SRV-Aided Paper Mill Capacity, Operations Noted (Kongmani; PASASON, 15 Apr 86)	11
Savannakhet District Cites Goal of Total Collectivization (Boungnong Saipangna; PASASON, 18 Apr 86)	12
Factory Management Problems, Poor Morale, Output Noted (Lakhan Vansai; PASASON, 18 Apr 86)	13
Party Growth in Army Division Highlighted (K. Khounnousai; PASASON, 19 Apr 86)	15
Briefs	
Saravane Coffee Production, SRV Experts	16
Saravane Resettlement (KPL)	16
Luang Prabang Military Recruitment, Combat	16
Savannakhet District Cooperativization (KPL)	17
Oudomsai Road Construction (KPL)	17
Luang Prabang Bank Deposits (KPL)	17
Savannakhet-SRV Forestry Trade (KPL)	17
Vientiane Rice Purchase Prices	17

Champassak District LPRP Congress, Membership (KPL)	17
---	----

PHILIPPINES

U.S. Bases Issue Debated With 'Widening Divisions' (Editorial; PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, 11 Jun 86)	18
Former President Macapagal Criticizes U.S. Support of Marcos (THE MANILA EVENING POST, 10 Jun 86)	20
Court Blocks U.S. Attempt To Get Abuses Information (Ben Rosario; MANILA BULLETIN, 12 Jun 86)	22
Government Debates Planned Budget for 1987 (Juanito Concepcion; MANILA BULLETIN, 13 Jun 86)	23
Davao Paper Editorial on Aquino's First 100 Days (THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR, 5 Jun 86)	25
Columnist Questions Police Action Against Rallyists (Emilio H. Serrano; THE MANILA EVENING POST, 11 Jun 86) ...	26
Metro Manila Retail Prices Continue To Rise (BUSINESS DAY, 13 Jun 86)	28
First Quarter Trade Imbalance Reaches \$150 Million (THE NEWS HERALD, 12 Jun 86)	30
Audit Commission Investigates Coconut Levy (Ramon R. Isberto; BUSINESS DAY, 13 Jun 86)	32
Briefs Department Store Blast	35

VIETNAM

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

Binh Tri Thien Bank Director Jailed for Abusing Authority (SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 20 Mar 86)	36
---	----

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

Swedish Aid Agency Director Defends Bai Bang Project (Carl Tham; DAGENS NYHETER, 5 May 86)	37
---	----

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

Assault Youth Force, Communist Youth Projects Discussed (Tran Hoang Linh; THANH NIEN, Mar 86)	40
Ho Chi Minh City Precinct Sets Up Youth Neighborhoods (Nguyen Hoang Thuc; THANH NIEN, Mar 86)	44

Geologist Comments on New Management Mechanism (Tran Kim Thach; DOAN KET, No 379, Apr 86)	47
SIAGON on People's Participation (SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 21 Mar 86)	51
Readers Express Opinions on Party Member Deficiencies (NHAN DAN, 12 May 86)	54
ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE	
Ho Chi Minh City Said To Resolve Raw Materials Problem (NHAN DAN, 13 May 86)	57
Ho Chi Minh City Units Participate in Insurance (NHAN DAN, 23 May 86)	59
Irrationalities in Price Structure Discussed (SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 15 Apr 85)	60
Reader Complains About Consignment Sales Stall (NHAN DAN, 24 Apr 86)	67
AGRICULTURE	
Increased Purchasing of Farm Products Per Contract Urged (Editorial; NHAN DAN, 24 Apr 86)	68
Dong Nai Creates Specialized Coffee Area (NHAN DAN, 24 Apr 86)	70
Doan Ket State Farm Contracts Coffee Production (Van Uong; NHAN DAN, 5 May 86)	72
Lam Dong Emphasizes Tea Exporting for Economic Growth (Van Du; NHAN DAN, 23 May 86)	74
Readers Complain About Contracted Norms, Retirement Pay (NHAN DAN, 23 May 83)	76
HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION	
Editorial Urges Expanding Small-Scale Hydropower Network (NHAN DAN, 17 Apr 86)	78
Power Corporation Improves Management, Expands Network (Pham Thanh, Tran Kham; NHAN DAN, 17 Apr 86)	80
New Underground Coal Mine Opens at Tan Lap (NHAN DAN, 3 May 86)	83

Reader Comments on Quang Ninh Coal Management (NHAN DAN, 20 May 86)	84
Ha Tuyen Cement Mill Reorganizes Production (NHAN DAN, 4 May 86)	85
White Cement Plant Begins Operations (NHAN DAN, 12 May 86)	86
LIGHT INDUSTRY	
NHAN DAN Editorial Calls for Development of Handicrafts (NHAN DAN, 20 May 86)	87
Ho Chi Minh City Cooperative Produces New Glass Product (NHAN DAN, 20 May 86)	89
LABOR	
Hanoi Economic Organizations Reduce Indirect Labor (NHAN DAN, 22 Apr 86)	90
POPULATION, CUSTOMS, AND CULTURE	
Hanoi Steps Up Population Redistribution (Vuong Tuoc; NHAN DAN, 7 May 86)	91
Ethnic Minority People Adopt Fixed Cultivation, Habitation (NHAN DAN, 22 May 86)	95
Population Growth Down in 1985, Still High (SAIGON GIAI PHONG, 20 Mar 86)	96
Briefs	
Thanh Hoa Assault Youths	97
Duyen Hai Radio Station	97
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	
Scientific-Technical Association Formed in Ho Chi Minh City (Nguyen Xuan Oanh; DOAN KET, No 379, Apr 86)	98
Ho Chi Minh City Forms Scientific-Technical Federation (DOAN KET, No 379, Apr 86)	100
PUBLICATIONS	
Table of Contents of THANH NIEN March 1986 (THANH NIEN, Mar 86)	102

LAOS

VIENTIANE INDUSTRY CHIEF VIEWS WEAKNESSES, SRV TIES

Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao 3 Apr 86 p 2

[Article: "Views of comrade Phimpha Thapklamheung, Chief of the Industry, Handicrafts, and Forestry Section, Given to the First Congress of the Vientiane Capital Party Committee"; date and place not specified]

[Excerpts] With its determination to succeed in its own duties over the past 10 years, the industry, handicrafts, and forestry section in Vientiane Capital has worked emphatically and has made progress step by step. Every industrial section that could be set up on its own and that was in accord with domestic and export demand was set up and expanded first. For those industrial sections which could not be set up on their own attention was called to international cooperation, for example, cooperation between the twin capitals of Hanoi Capital and Ho Chi Minh City, which signed mutual trade and economic agreements. Industry and forestry work construction and expansion were gradually carried out from small to large by focusing on domestic materials along with modern machinery and the use of improved handicraft labor. As for building and expanding state industry, first of all we must pay attention to the key sections, expand the production base for the coop units, and also employ the party line to build small industrial production bases in order to increase production for society steadily. We have tried to bring old factories into operation and have also constructed many new ones. There are now over 20 state factories that operate normally with nearly 2,000 cadres and workers. The value of industrial production in 1985 was a factor of 143 greater than that for 1976, and 2.5 times greater than that for 1985 [as published]. In 1985 our industry, handicrafts and forestry section carried out its budgetary obligation, which amounted to almost 50 million kip.

Besides serving the standard of living of our people in Vientiane Capital, the industry, handicrafts, and forestry section also serves other localities. In 1985 construction was completed for a paper factory, a plastics factory, an animal hide factory, a toothpaste factory, and a plant for motorcycles and bicycle pedals.

Besides the achievements mentioned, we still have several weaknesses:

- a normal operating basis has not yet been established for some factories;

- the lumber and manufacturing industries are two possible sections which have not yet been given full attention;

- transformation of private factories is not yet effective. Private handicraft workers have not yet really tried to join socialist collective living.

Based on experience from past years, our industry, handicrafts, and forestry section will try to accomplish the following in the future:

- work in cooperation with the central industrial section, and try its best to bring much more electricity into production;

- expand the lumber industry with determination in order to serve Vientiane Capital and exports;

- pay attention to expanding the food supply industry, for example, rice mills, sweets production, salt, fermented fish, etc.;

- try to produce construction equipment and expand other industrial enterprises which might be able to use raw materials within the country;

- pay close attention to the expansion of handicrafts such as textiles, basketry, and other handicrafts for domestic use and for export;

- increase cooperation with Hanoi Capital, Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh Capital, and other fraternal socialist capitals to make for greater efficiency so it can become a unified force in constructing and expanding our industrial base on the basis of mutual benefits. We believe that under the brilliance of this congress and the great determination of the cadres, workers, and working people in our industry, handicrafts, and forestry section, plus close cooperation with Hanoi Capital, Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh, and other capitals of fraternal socialist countries, our industry, handicrafts, and forestry section in Vientiane Capital will undergo greater expansion.

9884/13045

CSO: 4206/99

LAOS

'TALK' BLAMES KHUKRIT PARTY FOR THAI POLICIES

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 18 Apr 86 p 3

["Talk" column: "The Fate of the Social Action Party, Which Has Committed Many Crimes"]

[Text] An issue that is now being raised along with the construction of U.S. secondary military stockpile in Thailand and that is drawing extensive coverage and criticism by nearly every Thai newspaper and magazine is the fate of the Social Action Party. This is an issue that the Thai masses, for example, Thai students and intellectuals, are paying very close attention to nowadays.

After the fourth top-level administrative reshuffle, the Social Action Party led by Kukrit Pramot celebrated its power and control. However, he was not lucky, and because of his unlimited greed, his taking domestic power only for himself, and his adherence to the policies of other countries too much to the extent that he gave the beloved and cherished land of the Thai people to the international reactionaries as a hiding place for the routed genocidal criminals of the Pol Pot clique so as to dismantle and stop the construction of a new life for the Cambodian people, he lost his power. It would have been very difficult indeed for them to regain power, and the leader of the party suddenly and quietly resigned. Many Thai newspapers told us that at a recent party meeting there was talk of restoring the party to power. In reality this caused the conflict to increase further, for example, between the Social Action Party and other groups which are now in power. The groups and parties in Thailand must be well aware of the clever tricks of the Social Action Party, and in particular the Thai people and farmers knew them so well that they threw their produce into the middle of the road in the center of Bangkok. This was all because of the policies of the Social Action Party. Now, even though some members of the Social Action Party are still in power, their future is not bright. One of these days they will be punished for what they have done. Therefore, no matter how much they attempt to improve the Social Action Party, they are only wasting their energy. No matter how clever are the tricks of the international reactionaries and the ultrarightist reactionaries in the Thai power clique, they will absolutely not be able to keep the Thai people from hearing and seeing. There is no doubt that the fate of the criminals who committed numerous crimes against the Thai people will be in darkness in the near future, and then who will take over Khukrit Pramot's song, "The Silent Sword"?

9884/12951

CSO: 4206/98

LAOS

'TALK': U.S. STOCKPILE IN THAILAND 'THREAT TO STABILITY'

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 19 Apr 86 p 3

["Talk" column: "The Fourth U.S. Military Stockpile"]

[Excerpts] Thailand today appears as if it were independent and had territorial integrity, but the fact is that the Thai ultrarightist reactionaries have dragged Thailand completely into the orbit of the imperialist American arms race. U.S. military aid to Thailand has steadily increased, for example, it was \$15 million in 1985 and \$145 million in 1986, and in the next 2 months a team of U.S. military experts will come to discuss details concerning the amounts and types of and ways to cooperate in using the weapons. Important heavy weapons can be put in secondary warehouses in Thailand. In general, Thailand has missile-equipped tanks, torpedoes, and F20 and F16 warplanes. It is possible that the warplanes will deploy nuclear warheads but the details have not yet been decided between the United States and Thailand.

Because U.S. law does not allow military stockpiles to be set up where there are no military bases, such as in Thailand, the Washington power clique must put pressure on the U.S. Congress to approve it. However, there are now three countries with military bases--the Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, and South Korea--and Thailand could be the fourth. In order to be in accord with U.S. law a military base must be re-established in Thailand along with the construction of the military stockpile. Therefore, the agreement between Thailand and the United States concerning the construction of a military stockpile is a form of collaboration whose aim is to accelerate the arms race in order to create tension in the region and to allow U.S. soldiers to show their faces once more in Southeast Asia. This is a threat to stability in Southeast Asia and to the world that everyone must be very aware of, because as long as the ultrarightist reactionaries in the Thai power clique continue to fall deeper into the orbit of the U.S. military, the Thai people and Thailand will spill blood and shed tears under the danger of war.

9884/13045
CSO: 4206/99

LAOS

SAISOMPHON PHOMVIHAN NOTES IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY ECONOMY

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 28, 29, 31 Mar, 1, 2, 3 Apr 86

[Political feature by Saisomphon Phomvihan: "The Workers' Secondary Family Economy Is an Important Part of the Socialist Economy"]

[28 Mar 86 p 3]

[Excerpt] The objective stability of the secondary family economy today is indicated by the expansion of the forces of production and of relations in socialist production, and this level of readiness in its economic aspects marks the beginning of the communist style of production. Such stability, first of all, shows urban and rural social and economic differences, and shows that the levels of production and labor and the material and technical bases for agriculture are still low in comparison with industry. We can see here that the amount of agricultural production has not kept pace to supply adequately the increasing demand of the public. Therefore, production for an equal amount of consumption in the secondary family economy is necessary.

Agricultural production will not harm expansion of socialist agriculture. What is more, it has a significant role in guaranteeing the workers' material and spiritual needs and in guaranteeing [subsidiary] production. The family economy is considered an important part of the socialist economy for socialist labor in the rural areas of socialist countries. Thus, the leading organizations of the party and government in our fraternal socialist nations have always supported the secondary family economy of the workers both materially and spiritually, for example, in terms of work tools, domestic-animal food supplies, facilitating in terms of credit, etc. The socialist nations are now aware that agricultural production by the secondary family economy in Bulgaria and the USSR is approximately 25-26 percent, 10-13 percent in Czechoslovakia and the GDR, 32-33 percent in Romania, and 75-76 percent in Yugoslavia and Poland (including the secondary family economy of private farmers); in Mongolia the secondary family economy produces about 42-43 percent of the meat and fresh milk.

[29 May 86 p 3]

[Excerpts] In Laos the secondary family economy developed at the same time as the establishment of state agricultural settlements, enterprises,

agriculture, industry, and agricultural coops. The secondary family economy is considered an important part of the socialist economy as shown in various important government documents. However, the studies have not yet been completed. In order to make an assessment of the economic structure of the secondary family economy that is suited to today's reality, we must understand deeply its roles and relations with the social economy of Laos. Families have long been considered primary production units because most of the income for society comes from the farmers' family economy. Therefore, the farmers' family economy has become the foundation of the Laotian economy. This is a factor in doing everything possible to change the farmers' economy and to bring it into agreement with the need to advance toward socialism. After seizing power, our party mobilized all the people to promote their own secondary family economy and to improve the standard of living of the working people. These are important characteristics which are related to the rights and interests of the working people. The growth of production is the most important source for fulfilling the increasing demands not only for personal use, production, and the improvement of working conditions but also for expanding the forces of production in order to facilitate the acceleration and growth of production, save time, and promote work creativity.

The secondary family economy for working people is being expanded throughout Laos. This is shown by the fact that most of the families, whether in rural or urban areas, have land for their own gardens where they grow fruit trees, garlic, onions, cabbage, varieties of lettuce, hot peppers, taro, etc. They also raise animals such as cattle, buffalo, pigs, chickens, ducks, fish, etc. The cultivation areas for the secondary family economy in each locality vary in size, from half a hectare for the smallest to approximately 3 hectares for the largest. The income from the secondary family economy for coop members varies. In Vientiane Capital the average income from the secondary family economy is at least 30,000 kip per year; in Phon Thong District, Champassak Province, it is approximately 7,000 to 8,000 kip per year. In the Ban Ban agricultural coop, Kham District, Xieng Khouang Province, in addition to the agricultural coops members' engaging in the collective style of production, they also raise animals, grow vegetables, do textile and basket weaving, and obtain approximately 5,000 to 6,000 kip per year. In addition, some families also grow rice and earn a total of about 30-40 percent per year. The income earned from the secondary family economy varies for many reasons. In my opinion, I think that the income of those who are close to markets for distributing goods, cities, and communications routes, and who live where conditions promote production in the secondary family economy, will be greater. On the other hand, in places which are far from the ones mentioned, even though there is increasing demand in this respect, the income will be low. The demand for exchanging income for goods and products is also increasing, for example, in the case of zinc, cloth, tools for work which is indispensable for constructing the secondary family economy, etc. Generally speaking, the features of the products of the secondary family economy have not been high.

[31 Mar 86 p 3]

[Excerpts] Cooperation in production techniques in collective agricultural coops takes many forms, for example, the renting of land, draft animals, and other tools for cultivation which are owned by the coop members, where the coop committee decides the rental cost. This is the relation between the coop collective economy and the families of coop members, which aims to strengthen production in the coops and to set up a treasury for expanding the extensive [secondary] production. These are the important factors in carrying out the three benefits simultaneously.

The relationship concerning the effects of the social economy on the expansion of the secondary family economy is seen, for example, in government assistance, enterprises, factories, agricultural settlements, units from local levels to the center, and the material and spiritual effects of agricultural coops on secondary family economy of workers, cadres, government employees, and agricultural coop members, such as in the Latsen Agricultural Settlement. Each worker's family has less than 3 hectares allocated by the settlement where they can engage in cultivation and animal husbandry. Each family has 3 head of cattle and raises about 15-20 chickens. The settlement has been paying special attention to the secondary family economy, for example, by aiding families with concentrated animal feed and by helping to clear the area for cultivation. Also, the settlement helps in organizing and purchasing products from the secondary family economy, such as meat, of which each family has to sell 20 kg per year to the settlement and which has become an obligation of the secondary family economy toward the settlement. After the obligation has been taken care of, each family can also sell their surplus products on the market.

The Phou-Oi Coop in Pak Song District, Champassak Province, primarily engages in animal husbandry and coffee growing. Each family of the coop members has about 0.5 hectares on the average for gardening, with some places growing cardamom and some growing coffee beans. Also, each family has three head of cattle along with ducks, chickens, etc. The income from the secondary family economy in 1985 was about 50,000 kip per family. The coop also helps the families, for example, it gives them loans to build a house and also purchases cardamom at additional cost to the secondary family economy. Thus, the Phou-Oi Coop has become an outstanding coop in Champassak Province because the standard of living of the coop members has gradually improved. This is the result of the assistance of the collective economy and of the agricultural coops toward the secondary family economy which have always tried to do everything possible to increase the income from the collective economy, the coop, and the family economy by making it convenient to expand the secondary family economy in terms of credits, loans, organizing and purchasing products at added cost, etc.

[1 Apr 86 p 3]

[Excerpt] Some of the lessons mentioned above can be seen in some coops, and we should do whatever we can to make these lessons better known everywhere.

The secondary family economy of cadres and government employees has been given attention especially in Vientiane Capital and in offices and organizations around the center. In 1983 the State Bank loaned 3.9 million kip to 522 families of cadres and government employees for the purpose of constructing the secondary family economy. In 1984 the number of families who borrowed from the bank increased to 3,891, which pushed the loans up to 10.9 million kip. This means that in 1984 the number of families who borrowed from the bank for the secondary family economy increased by a factor of 7.4 and the loans increased by a factor of 7.9 as compared with the figures for 1983. The purpose of the loans was primarily for animal husbandry, cultivation, and other handicrafts. According to the general statistical assessment of the secondary family economy base, for cadres around the center who had borrowed money for the purpose of production, in the first 6 months of 1984 there were materials, domestic animals, and implements of cultivation to ensure the following credits: 2,699 pigs, 141 cattle, 19 buffalos, and 6,802 chickens. The data above confirmed the attention given by the party to the secondary family economy of cadres and government employees, particularly in making it convenient for the cadres and government employees to acquire indispensable capital to produce food for their families and society, train them to love work, spend their precious free time with their families and in producing for the public, and gain experience, knowledge, and creativity in actual work. It is also a way to improve and balance the ratio of capital and labor in society where cadres' families with low and dependent income are also able to produce for family income and produce more products for society, which helps to lessen the discrepancy in income among people in society and also to promote production in the secondary family economy, to build up a knowledge of the production business in turning over the loans, to be responsible for government property, to understand the correct use of capital, and to cherish the outcome of their own labor as shown in the steady increase in the cadres' savings deposits. Therefore, the standard of living of cadres and government employees around the center and especially in Vientiane Capital has been improving step by step.

We should also examine some of the problems that have not yet been addressed in the demand to expand the secondary family economy. We have not yet looked into the ability and labor available to help the secondary family economy. This shows that we have not yet been able to expand credit, material supply, trade, etc., extensively and thoroughly not only for the secondary family economy for cadres and government employees but also for the secondary family economy of the families of agricultural coop members, private farmers, and other social classes. This is to increase production for society, to strengthen the national economy, to train all social classes in intellectual and creative work, and also to ensure the standard of living of the working people. Cooperation among the basic work sections, for example, agricultural sections, material supply, trade, banking, finance sections, etc., will enable these work sections to support the secondary family economy. Regarding this problem, we can see that these sections have not yet done all that they should. We can see that secondary family economy production has not yet been encouraged. We have not yet been able to attract the attention of agricultural coop members and private farmers to the secondary family economy. Technical knowledge regarding cultivation and animal husbandry has not yet

been extensively disseminated to those who engage in the secondary family economy. Also, the organizations which purchase the products from the secondary family economy have not yet guaranteed their support for production, as indicated by a failure to set absolutely fixed contract prices. Both buyers and sellers sometimes are irresponsible and do not carry out their obligations carefully, resulting in unsystematic and irregular relations on both sides. For these reasons, the cadres, workers, and agricultural coop members who engage in the secondary family economy must try to find materials themselves, must produce with their own labor and knowledge, and must look for distribution markets themselves. The banks have fallen into a condition of imbalance between lending cash out in order to supply capital to the secondary family economy and repayment of loans. Also, the savings deposits of cadres, government employees, workers, and agricultural coop members have not yet been widely established, and other sectors, for example, private farmers and merchants, have not yet been attracted to take an active part in depositing savings.

[2 Apr 86 p 3]

[Excerpts] We should also understand that although the economic interests of all work sections in main production units within a certain area do not agree with each other, these economic interests cannot be separated from each other because they are closely related to the general interest of the masses. The central echelons gather the benefits and also become the focal point for the differences between the economic interests of different work sections which are the main production units (provinces, districts, and villages). Therefore, the tool for carrying out and obtaining economic benefits in expanding the secondary family economy is complete coordination between all work sections. This is an important principle, especially for guiding the economy, which should include not only government and collective coops but also the secondary family economy.

It is also necessary to aid the private farmers' family economy because the family economy of private farmers has always been important in creating sources of income for society and covers most of the agricultural products from the family economy. If we use basic theory to explain this, we could say that today Laos is becoming stable because five opposing economic sectors are becoming more closely integrated as a whole. Each day they interact among themselves and become parts of each other. Stability in one economic sector becomes a firmer foundation for the stability of another. Therefore, these economic sectors must be employed at the same time. This is an important principle in the period of transformation to socialism. If we help the family economy of private farmers with determination, it will participate in strengthening the national economy and will also attract them to socialist production.

Keeping accounts and calculating the entire production of the social economy and also the secondary family economy have meaning in terms of the principle for guiding and constructing socialism. Economic guidance will be effective, depending on thorough accounting and calculating. Otherwise, it will result in the idea that all economic movements are far from reality and do not agree

with the demands and that inspection is less effective. Thus, we should pay attention to accounting and calculating in all government economic matters, collective agricultural coops, the private economy, and the secondary family economy in order to help in assessing them suitable for reality, so we can then correctly carry out the transformation and construction.

[3 Apr 86 p 3]

[Excerpt] In order to improve trading, our party has set a clear direction "by increasing economic cooperation between the government and the farmers and producers by signing bilateral economic contracts and trading with the people" (Third Session of the Ninth Plenum of the LPDR Party Central Committee, Vientiane, 1985 p 58). In trading we should pay attention to the signing of bilateral economic contracts. However, the signing is not just a formality. It is important to make the signed obligations become reality. In order to make them work, each side must be responsible for the other and must share a common interest in buying and selling. Particularly in exchanging goods we must pay attention to the value of the goods. This means that the goods to be brought in for exchange or sale must be agreed on and suitable for the needs of the consumers. We should avoid the situation where there are goods just for the sake of having goods, whereby none of them can be sold, and also the opposite case where there are needed goods, but where there is a shortage for consumers. Regarding this problem, all agricultural settlements, agricultural coops, enterprises, and agricultural factories should increase their economic cooperation with determination and sign bilateral contracts with the secondary family economy of workers' families, government employees, cadres' families, agricultural coop members' families, and private farmers. This is to increase their cash income, strengthen the secondary family economy, and strengthen relations between the social economy and the secondary family economy. Only by achieving this will the secondary family economy become a truly important part of the socialist economy and be able to do without all forms of dictatorship in the secondary family economy.

9884/9435
CSO: 4206/95

LAOS

SRV-AIDED PAPER MILL CAPACITY, OPERATIONS NOTED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 15 Apr 86 p 2

[Article by Kongmani: "The Vientiane-Hanoi Friendship Paper Mill"]

[Excerpts] Along the Vientiane-Tha Deua Road, around Km 10, new construction is underway for a paper mill which is a project of the growing friendship between Laos and Vietnam and between Vientiane Capital and Hanoi Capital. The construction of this 10,000-square meter factory began on 26 February 1985 and is now basically completed. Installation of the machinery for construction has been completed, and since 26 February 1986 the mill has been able to conduct tests using domestic paper remnants as raw materials for the factory.

The joint cooperation paper mill between the two capitals is one of several construction projects which Vientiane Capital is now in the process of constructing.

After the actual production experiments were completed in early April, with assistance based on the actual experience of the Vietnamese experts who worked shoulder to shoulder with our Lao workers, production became effective step by step as follows: They were able to produce a total of over 1 ton of paper for sanitary use and for duplicating machines, as well as thin paper for the Vientiane Capital party congress. There are now two machines for producing thin and thick paper which, based on their capacity and if they were to produce all three types of paper, will be able to produce 150 tons per year. The machine for thick paper can produce 300 tons of paper per year. This paper mill is the first one in Vientiane Capital and it has been play an important part in constructing the foundation of the national economy, reducing paper purchases from abroad, and steadily increasing the consumption of domestic products.

9884/12951
CSO: 4206/98

LAOS

SAVANNAKHET DISTRICT CITES GOAL OF TOTAL COLLECTIVIZATION

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 18 Apr 86 p 2

[Article by Boungnong Saipangna: "The Period of the First 5-year Plan in Atsaphanthong District"]

[Excerpts] Atsaphanthong is a medium district in Savannakhet Province of approximately 4,000 square km. It has 15 cantons, 196 villages, 1,199 families, and a population of 69,754; the total agricultural production area is 12,334.08 hectares which is primarily for growing rice. In 1985 Atsaphanthong District was able to produce a total of 32,068 tons of rice, which amounts 2.6 tons per hectare and 426 kg per capita on the average.

In terms of agricultural cooperativization, among the farmers it is considered a center of socialist collective production. Five years prior to this there were only 12 agricultural coop units throughout Atsaphanthong District. However, in 1985, 86 units were added. There is now a total of 98 agricultural coop units with 6,255 families, 43,478 members, and 8.182 hectares for production. This means that the coop villages make up 50 percent of the villages district-wide. The number of coop families is 56.49 percent, members of agricultural coops constitute 69.18 percent of the population, and the cultivated area covers 69.18 percent of the total ricefields throughout the district. In the three district cantons of Dong Keum, Kout Hin, and Nonsavang, they were able to completely eliminate private farmers. This figure was 93.50 percent for Phakkhagna Canton, and in two other cantons, Dong Hen and Chelamong, the figure was 70 percent.

9884/12951
CSO: 4206/98

LAOS

FACTORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS, POOR MORALE, OUTPUT NOTED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 18 Apr 86 pp 2, 3

[Article by Lakhan Vansai: "A New Life for the Electric Wire and Plastic Bag Factory"]

[Excerpt] The Electric Wire and Plastic Bag Factory produces electric wire and plastic bags for the public. When I arrived there I was welcomed by the factory's board of directors. Mr Khamlia, the director of the factory, told me its history. The factory had been left in a broken-down condition by the capitalists of the old regime. Prior to Liberation, they could see that the old administration could not defeat the revolutionary forces and that the factory would fall into the hands of the revolutionary forces. They lost hope and became jealous of the new regime, so they dismantled important machines and took apart the basic components so that the factory could not produce on a normal basis. After Liberation we revisited the factory. It was so difficult that it was almost impossible to fix it. However, because its role is to produce electric wire and plastic bags for the public, it could help to reduce our dependence abroad by helping us to be self-sufficient and self-reliant and also to be our own master. Therefore, the party and government approved the capital for restoring the factory to its normal production and assigned cadres and workers to manage and repair the machines. In doing this they used production plans through the state plan concerning raw materials purchased abroad. Mr Khamlia added that because of our lack of experience in management and the shortage of raw materials, the factory's management and production were in the form of an administrative subsidiary.

What Mr Khamlia said was true, because the management of the factory was in the form of an administrative subsidiary. No detailed production was planned, no expected figures were set, the financial accounts were in chaos, and production was carried out without any economic calculations for profit and loss. Production was handled poorly, and they only did it for the sake of having materials for production and making products. They did not think about profit or loss at all. Creativity was lacking, as was their sense of responsibility for the machinery. They just let the machines run. The rubber burning equipment did not work right. The result was poor products and great losses of raw materials. The workers were not content which led to discouragement, greed, corruption, and waste. They played cards all the time

and ignored their responsibility toward public property, resulting in great losses and damage and in a lack of a sense of obligation to the state bank. They also owed the state bank many millions of kip. There were conflicts within the board of directors, and the workers were suspicious of each other. There was no right of collective ownership, which suppressed the state income, and there was no collective income for the factory or for individuals. Thus, the standard of living of the workers was low.

By understanding the contents of the Ninth Plenum of the Central Party Committee on the management problems of industrial factories and on turning the factories into main socialist units step by step, the electric wire and plastic bag factory rapidly improved the organization of the lines of production within the factory. They improved the management and the financial accounting system. The production plan is set periodically on a daily, weekly, and yearly basis. There is a billing system for selling products.

The factory board of directors also organized a weekly political life style meetings with determination. They continuously studied, trained, and guided in ideology. They turned the management and production system into the new socialist economic system step by step and gradually wiped out the administrative subsidy management.

As a result, the workers' ideology improved and they became highly responsible for the machinery and for their own work. They now focus on producing on a normal basis and correct work. Workers are assigned to control each machine correctly and to plan systematically and set up production schedules. They promoted the right of collective ownership and economic calculation with the three guaranteed benefits for the state, for the factory as a whole, and for individual workers by setting up regulations and properly exercising technical regulations in production and in the labor and wage system.

There was mobilization for each worker to be creative in his own work in producing electric wire and plastic bags on a normal basis and more besides, resulting in an increase in the income of the state, the factory, and the individual and in a happy life for the workers.

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LAOS

PARTY GROWTH IN ARMY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTED

Vientiane PASASON in Lao 19 Apr 86 p 2

[Article by K Khounnousai: "Five Years of Improvement and Cadre Training in Division B in the Northern Region"]

[Excerpts] Our army was created and has grown because of the training of the LPRP and under the care of the people of ethnic groups. The same goes for Infantry Division B in the northern region. After it was officially created the party organization was also set up at the same time, and it began to carry out important and essential work in various units.

The base party chapter of the division has comprehensively carried out the building and improvement plan for the members in each party chapter for regiments, demi-battalions, independent companies, schools, hospitals, offices, and organizations under the division according to the general plan of the party under the supervision of the general military political bureau. Each of the over 30 party chapters throughout the division focuses on the general direction of building the units in the way set by the base party committee. In the 5-year period for the building and growth of the division, the party chapter and its members have stayed with the different movements of the division, for example, fighting, training, and building within the units. The party members participate in all movements whether they are large or small.

In order to continue to strengthen the units in every way, the base party committee for the division has set an emulation standard for each party chapter under it to complete its own work. All the party chapters and party members have become leading labor forces in carrying out the work and all the orders from the higher echelons and in systematically and effectively improving weaknesses and shortcomings. The party members under each unit are a source of trusted forces for the party in order to promote various units to success. Another factor that helps each party chapter to work effectively is that they organize and train all the cadres and combatants in the party in unity and solidarity.

Over the past 5 years the membership of the party chapters in the division has greatly expanded, and there has been a steady improvement in their quality.

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LAOS

BRIEFS

SARAVANE COFFEE PRODUCTION, SRV EXPERTS—In 1986 the trade section in Saravane Province set the expected figures for the district [Lao Ngam] that are obligated to the province, such as 1,000 tons for coffee purchases and 1,000 tons of cardamom. Since the beginning of the year the district trade section has purchased and exchanged 1,000 tons of coffee and 95 tons of cardamom. Lao Ngam District also has a plan for building a small 300-kW hydropower plant in Houai Ta Pong where the survey has already been started, and it is expected that the installation will be completed by the end of the year. When it is completed it will serve a rice mill, a sawmill, and the people in the district. SRV experts are helping in the survey and in the installation within the district capital itself. This serves to demonstrate the strength and growth of Lao Ngam in the new phase. [Excerpts] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 23 Apr 86 pp 2, 4] 9884/13045

SARAVANE RESETTLEMENT (KPL)—In the dry season of this year the administrative committee of Saravane Province sent out a number of technical cadres to mobilize and encourage the people in the mountainous area in Ta-Oi District to leave highland farming and come down and engage in lowland cultivation. Now as many as 2,070 families have come down to engage in settled farming on the flatland. This has gradually decreased the over 7,300 hectares of highland cultivation area throughout Ta-Oi District. [Excerpts] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 21 Apr 86 p 1] 9884/13045

LUANG PRABANG MILITARY RECRUITMENT, COMBAT—Luang Prabang is one of the provinces that has scored outstanding achievements for the 10th anniversary of the founding of the nation. The people throughout the province have had a long heritage of diligence. Youths throughout the district participate in national defense and in building a socialist nation. For example, in early 1985 the Luang Prabang Youth Union achieved many things. In national defense and security the youth union committees at each level mobilized 583 youths of ethnic groups to volunteer to take part in the military forces by joining the regular forces and the guerilla militia. They attacked enemies, suppressed counterrevolutionaries, and wiped out many instances of robbery and illegal trade. [Excerpts] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 19 Apr 86 p 2] 9884/13045

SAVANNAKHET DISTRICT COOPERATIVIZATION (KPL)--The conversion to agricultural cooperativization in Outhoumphon District, Savannakhet Province, is now being effectively improved and expanded. By the end of 1985 the number of agricultural coops throughout Outhoumphon District increased to 190 units, and they have 16,000 hectares of productive area. The outcome for paddy rice in the district last year was over 45,550 tons or 569 kg of paddy rice per capita. This was the outcome for collective production especially in the form of agricultural coop production which covers 90 percent of the production area throughout the district. [Excerpts] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 22 Apr 86 p A8] 9884/13045

OUDOMSAI ROAD CONSTRUCTION (KPL)--Since early March the people in Phousai Canton, Houai Hou, Nan Se, and Phou Tan Cantons in Na Mo District, Oudomsai Province, have successfully constructed 12 km of a 22-km road from the district building to Phou Tan Canton. Meanwhile, road construction from Pak Tha District to Pha Oudom District is being accelerated and is expected to be completed in November. This is to guarantee a throughway for communications and transportation from the districts to rural areas and is aimed at encouraging convenient circulation, distribution, and communications between localities during both the dry and the rainy seasons. [Text] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 1 Apr 86 p A3] 9884/13045

LUANG PRABANG BANK DEPOSITS (KPL)--Since early January and up to the end of February, the cadres, combatants, and people throughout Luang Prabang Province deposited over 151,150 kip of the money they had saved from production sales in their own provincial branch of the state bank, and they also bought 295,600 kip of the savings lottery. [Excerpts] [Vientiane KHAOSAN PATHET LAO in Lao 25 Mar 86 p A7] 9884/13045

SAVANNAKHET-SRV FORESTRY TRADE (KPL)--Cooperation in tree felling between Savannakhet and Binh Tri Thien, twin provinces of Laos and Vietnam, in the first quarter of 1986 has been a success. In the past 3 months the tree-felling settlement in the industry, handicrafts, and forestry section in Savannakhet Province worked in cooperation with Settlement 1915 of Binh Tri Thien Province in felling a total of 3,648 cubic meters of trees in the Phou Vieng Mountain and Phin District areas and exported over 1,000 cubic meters of trees. In 1985 the two tree-felling and logging settlements of the twin province worked together and cut down a total of over 22,780 cubic meters of logs, exceeding the yearly plan by over 2,180 cubic meters. [Text] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 10 Apr 86 p 1] 9884

VIENTIANE RICE PURCHASE PRICES--In the first 3 months of 1986 the trade coop members in Ban Phon Tong, Chommani, Chanthaboury District, Vientiane Capital, collected a total of 2,102 kg of agricultural taxes and purchased and exchanged goods with the people and farmers in their area of responsibility valued at a total of 35,592 kip. [Excerpt] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 12 Apr 86 p 1] 9884

CHAMPASSAK DISTRICT LPRP CONGRESS, MEMBERSHIP (KPL)--The second party congress of the party committee in Phon Thong District, Champassak Province, was opened on the morning of 8 April. There were 85 full representatives who represented a total of 536 party members throughout the district. [Excerpt] [Vientiane PASASON in Lao 15 Apr 86 p 1] 9884

PHILIPPINES

U.S. BASES ISSUE DEBATED WITH 'WIDENING DIVISIONS'

HK130847 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 11 Jun 86 p 4

[Editorial: "A Question of Bases"]

[Text] The widening divisions among the conservative, liberal and "progressive" (read as radical) elements in Philippine society are making it extremely difficult to dispassionately and intelligently discuss the issue of American military presence in the country.

Even within the ruling coalition which brought Ms Aquino to power--and certainly that includes the reformist wing of the armed forces--debates on the U.S. bases often approach a level of emotionalism which hint of deep cleavages in government. That is, whenever it does decide to talk about the matter--which isn't too often.

It's always been assumed that about the only people in this country who are determined to see the dismantling of the U.S. bases are the communists and their fellow-travelers. The notion, of course, smacks of the primitive demarcations of the Cold War, when the issue was framed as a matter of "us vs them." The Red-inspired insurgency somehow lends dubious credence to the claim that the Americans' departure would create a "vacuum" which the Soviets, it is alleged, would only be too willing to fill. This, despite ample evidence that the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines] is basically a home-grown phenomenon. Over the years and from bitter experience, most Filipino communists have learned to reject both their vacillating former patrons in Beijing as much as the social-imperialists at the Kremlin. Still, in this age of intense superpower rivalry, the threat of Soviet aggression is a compelling one.

The progressives are just as guilty of simplistic argumentation. In their propaganda they invariably portray even those who, in all conscience, are thoroughly convinced that U.S. military presence serves the national interest as, at best, neanderthal simpletons or, at worst, imperialist lackeys. Moreover, widespread is the suspicion that they raise the rallying cry of nationalism only as a political and organizational expedient. Although contemporary Philippine history will attest that they have always been at the forefront of the nationalist movement--beginning with the anti-Japanese struggle in Central Luzon up to the anti-Marcos protest actions. Moreover, they should be credited

for raising the nationalist agenda from the knee-jerk ethnocentrism of our forebears to a careful, objective evaluation of our developing-country dilemma in a world dominated by mutually destructive superpowers. Besides, the likelihood that the U.S. bases would surely invite Soviet nuclear attack once the U.S.-USSR conflict boils over is all too real for any Filipino to ignore. We need only recall the events of December 8, 1941.

Amid this ideologically-charged debate, however, the voice of those Filipinos who do not think of themselves as conservatives or liberals or progressive--just Filipinos--is lost. It is now steadily becoming inconceivable to think, for instance, that the freedom-loving citizens of this country would not also want to assert the sovereignty of the Republic. And sovereignty, by definition, also happens to encompass the removal of all foreign military presence in the Philippines.

On the eve of Independence Day, it is about time we remind ourselves again of the heroic sacrifice of those men and women who struggled 88 years ago to build a genuinely independent Philippines. And by that they clearly meant a nation where no foreign bases are around to cast doubt on our right to be free as well as on our resolve to assert our independence.

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CSO: 4200/1134

30 June 1986

PHILIPPINES

FORMER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL CRITICIZES U.S. SUPPORT OF MARCOS

HK120906 Manila THE MANILA EVENING POST in English 10 Jun 86 pp 1, 6

[Text] Former President Diosdado Macapagal yesterday accused four U.S. presidents of "collaborating with former President Marcos in nurturing dictatorship in the Philippines."

"It was a grave error that Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan collaborated with Ferdinand Marcos in nurturing dictatorship and its heartless travesty upon the human rights of Filipinos for the sake of the U.S. military bases," Macapagal told the Quezon City Rotary Club at the Quezon City Sports Club.

"The mistake almost cleaved permanently the bond of friendship and cooperation for mutual benefit, and in the interest of the two peoples, it must never happen again," he added.

Macapagal said the ascendancy of President Aquino to power is "transcendental and historic."

He said "People's Power" outmaneuvered U.S. President Reagan from keeping Marcos as president while at the same time supporting the opposition led by President Aquino.

"The statement of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at the height of the EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] revolution that to the U.S. Philippine democracy is more important than the military bases constitutes a long-overdue realization that the enduring bond between the Filipinos and the Americans is democracy, not just for Americans but equally for Filipinos," Macapagal said.

He said that when he was president, he "saw the unconscionable U.S. pattern of intervening in Philippine presidential politics and trying to control Philippine presidents to maintain the strong American influence in the country."

Macapagal said "the U.S. Government did not look at my reelection as their interest and supported then Senate President Marcos against me in the 1965 presidential elections."

The U.S. should realize that the time has come to deal with the Philippines as a sovereign and independent nation," he said. If the U.S. hopes to retain Philippine cooperation as part of the Asia-Pacific defense chain, it ought to treat the Philippines not as a colony," Macapagal said.

"The new relationship should warrant that the U.S. lay off its hands on Philippine presidential politics so that we will have presidents who are our choice and who will serve our people," he said.

Macapagal, who served as president from 1961 to 1965, changed the Independence Day celebration from July 4 to June 12 during his incumbency.

"If we can bring about this change in the aftermath of the revolutionary assertion of People's Power, then every June 12, we shall commemorate the reality, not the shadow, of independence."

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CSO: 4200/1134

PHILIPPINES

COURT BLOCKS U.S. ATTEMPT TO GET ABUSES INFORMATION

HK130908 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 12 Jun 86 p 10

[By Ben Rosario]

[Text] Legal technicalities yesterday blocked efforts of a United States court to obtain evidence of human rights violations allegedly committed under the Marcos regime.

The hearing of the U.S. court's position to obtain testimonies of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Armed Forces Chief Gen Fidel Ramos was held yesterday in a Quezon City [QC] court.

Lawyers representing deposed President Marcos and the government argued on legal questions on how the evidence sought by the U.S. court could be obtained.

QC Judge Filemon Mendoza adjourned the proceedings and directed Enrile's private counsel, Antonio Bautista, to write down his opposition to the U.S. court's request.

Judge Edward Cahn of the Eastern Pennsylvania District Court has sought the testimonies of Enrile and Ramons in connection with a multi-million-dollar "class action" suit filed by Filipino torture victims against Marcos and former Armed Forces chief, Gen Fabian Ver.

In "letters rogatory," Cahn also requested that Philippine military documents concerning the arrest, detention and death of political detainees be divulged. The 14 types of documents being sought include location of safehouses, lists of arrests and detention orders, and burial sites of killed political prisoners.

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PHILIPPINES

GOVERNMENT DEBATES PLANNED BUDGET FOR 1987

HK131546 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 13 Jun 86 p 21

[By Juanito Concepcion]

[Text] The government of President Aquino is considering expenditures of P114.8 billion next year in an effort to achieve a 5 percent growth in gross national product (GNP), significantly higher than the projected 1.5 percent GNP growth this year.

Government documents showed that the proposed 1987 government budget is 5 percent higher than the 1986 revised expenditure level of P109.4 billion.

GNP for 1987 is estimated to reach P739.6 billion or a 13.4 percent increase from the 1986 level of P652.2 billion.

To meet the 1987 projected expenditure level, the government expects to generate revenues of about P100.6 billion, excluding inflows from the Economic Support Fund [ESF] from the United States which will amount to only some P2.8 billion in 1987 from the 1986 level of P4.2 billion.

The revenues that the government expects to generate in 1987, net of ESF, are significantly higher from the P83.2 billion revenues, net of ESF, that it expects to generate this year.

With 1987 projected expenditures of P114.8 billion being met with projected total revenues of P103.4 billion including ESF inflows, the resulting budget deficit next year will amount to only P11.4 billion, a sharp 48.18 percent reduction from the projected 1986 deficit of some P22 billion.

For next year, the government plans to increase by 11.7 percent to P76.5 billion its current operating expenditures and capital outlays by 18.06 percent to P18.3 billion in a bid to achieve the projected 5 percent GNP growth.

Net lending by the national government, primarily to government financial institutions and other agencies, will be reduced by 21.3 percent to P20 billion. Total net lending of the government this year is expected to amount to P25.4 billion, of which P16.4 billion had been allocated to the Philippine

National Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines and the Philippine Foreign Loan Guarantee Corp [Philguarantee].

Government documents said that a budget deficit-to-GNP ratio of 1.5 percent in 1987 will not likely exert undue pressures on the balance of payments deficit and domestic liquidity.

The reduction of the ratio from the proposed level of 3.4 percent in 1986 will likely mean that the ratio of domestic credit flows that may be allocated to the national government to the total credits available in the economy will go down.

This will ensure the availability of domestic credits for the private sector, government sources said.

The government expects a 13.4 percent increase in its 1987 revenue collections as it hopes to reap the full-year impact of new tax measures, put in place this year, that will increase government revenues by some P7.1 billion.

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CSO: 4200/1134

PHILIPPINES

DAVAO PAPER EDITORIAL ON AQUINO'S FIRST 100 DAYS

HK130900 Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 5 Jun 86 p 2

[Editorial: "The First 100 Days"]

[Text] We do not have the space for an assessment to give even just a rough idea of how Mrs Corazon C. Aquino fared during her first 100 days as president of the republic.

However, it is safe to state that her biggest achievement during the period was her being able to politically hold together a rainbow coalition of often conflicting and ambitious blocs in the cabinet. Translating her immense popularity with the people into political power, Mrs Aquino has shown how tough she can be if the need arises. Samples of her mettle as a decisive leader have been manifested in instances when she decided against the overwhelming pressure from her advisers and the military bloc of Minister Enrile and General Ramos as in the release of political detainees.

Beyond this, however, Mrs Aquino has still to do a lot. The economy, which took the backseat during the first 3 months, ought to take priority now. Unfortunately, the Aquino government still has to announce an economic recovery plan. Indecisiveness in this area might have turned off foreign governments and international creditors from fulfilling their much-publicized aid and loan commitments.

A perked-up economy will go a long way in the country's drive to solve insurgency, a very alarming problem in itself.

It is therefore hoped by those who wish this country well that President Aquino and her official family now concentrate their talents and efforts on economic recovery. In this task, they would need a resolve, more unifying and transcendent than their common hatred for Marcos.

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CSO: 4200/1134

PHILIPPINES

COLUMNIST QUESTIONS POLICE ACTION AGAINST RALLYISTS

HK130905 Manila THE MANILA EVENING POST in English 11 Jun 86 p 4

["Passing Through" column by Emilio H. Serrano: "The Reds Are Everywhere"]

[Excerpt] The official Malacanang report says Mrs Aquino was cooking dinner in her new home on Arlegui Street near the palace when she notices a whiff of tear gas entering her kitchen. She was not bothered, according to Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo, because "she continued cooking." Now, that's real, cool, certified poise.

Meanwhile, soldiers and policemen continued exploding tear gas bombs on the rallyists who merely wanted to reach Freedom Park fronting Malacanang to air their grievances. The homey smell of cooking filled the Aquino kitchen while out in the streets a few blocks away, men, women, and children were being gassed, hosed, beaten short at and stabbed, forcing some rallyists to jump from Ayala bridge to the Pasig River to escape police and military brutality.

Mrs Aquino was quoted as asking what the rallyists were fighting for.

"Do they want democracy? We already have it," said she.

There are no words to describe the general reaction to that. Marcos muffed his chances because towards the end he was incapable of listening to, or looking at, the other side, but this was after 20 years of being in power. Mrs Aquino is doing it only after 3 months. And her police and Capcom [Capital Command] are proving to be more brutal than the Marcos military ever was.

We all remember the rallies of the yellow shirters in Makati and how they tied up traffic for hours. In one instance, a yellow rallyist dropped a plastic bag full of human urine on the head of the late Mayor Nemesio Yabut. They were not exactly rallies exemplary in civilized manners but they were allowed with a minimum of interference from the authorities. Today, even the "V" sign is classified as a gesture of "public alarm and scandal."

Brig Gen Alfredo S. Lim, Western Police District superintendent, was all over the morning papers yesterday, surrounded by 18 molotov cocktails supposedly

left by rallyists at the Luneta midnight Sunday. General, sir, you will have to cook up something better than that. That's a script that will not win an award even from the Badaf [Philippine slang word for homosexual] Movie Scribes Association. If there had been magnums or Uzis in the cache, okay pa [still], but beer bottles like our favorite metro aides and stevedores like to clutch at the end of a hard day's work? With improvised wicks yet, torn from the camisola [camisole] of our rosary-praying aunt?

Please, sir, the loyalists ranks are not all no read no write. They like their police plots to be slightly more intelligent than this, with a touch of [word indistinct], granting the average tear-gas throwing Capcom or police Good Guy can manage to spell that word, not to speak of knowing what it means.

Another excuse for the police savagery last Sunday was the Lim statement that the rally was "illegal." The rally on Edsa [Epifano de los Santos Avenue] last February was also "illegal," but did General Lim and his Canister and Hose Battalion swoop down on them after talking to Butz Aquino and General Ramos? Were the rallyists at the Luneta last Sunday not Filipinos like those who gathered at Edsa? By holding back last February was Gen Lim then upholding the law, in the same way he enforced the "same" law last Sunday on Ayala Blvd but with a slight painful twist?

In private, there is no doubt Gen Lim is a fine person but as Ka [comrade] Blas [Ople] had earlier remarked, the desire to gain a few notches upward in his career is costing Gen Lim more than he realizes just now. In retrospect, Gen Cabrera wasn't so bad. He liked to err on the side of tolerance and compassion.

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CSO: 4200/1134

30 June 1986

PHILIPPINES

METRO MANILA RETAIL PRICES CONTINUE TO RISE

HK131557 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 13 Jun 86 p 13

["Economic Indicator" column: "Metro Retail Prices Continue to Go Up"]

[Text] Retail prices of selected commodities in Metro Manila, as measures by the retail price index (RPI), continued to rise in March compared with their year ago levels, data based on the indices released by the National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) showed. Using 1978 as the base year, the RPI for all items during the month went up 3.09 percent to 373.1 index points from 361.9 index points.

Among the different commodity groups whose retail prices are monitored by the NCSO, only the mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials group posted a decline of 13.68 percent the rest registered increases ranging from a high of 10.34 percent to a low of 1.18 percent.

Following the rollback in prices of oil and oil products, RPI for mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials slid 71.1 index points from 519.9 index points in March 1985 to 448.89 index points in the same month this year.

The RPI measures changes in the prices of a select set of commodities bought on retail. It is computed as the ratio between the retail prices of these commodities during the reference period (1986) and their retail prices during the base year (1978).

Meanwhile, among the items in the RPI basket that registered increases, the beverages and tobacco sector recorded the highest percentage gain of 10.33 percent. From 338.7 index points in March the previous year, this year's level went up 35 index points to 373.7 index points. This was followed by the machinery and transport equipment group with a 7.74 percent rise, while chemicals, including animal and vegetable oils and fats, came third with a 5.57 percent increase.

The other commodity groups registered the following increases: miscellaneous manufactured articles, 5.4 percent; crude materials except fuel, 4.97 percent; food, 4.92 percent; and manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials, 1.18 percent.

Retail Price Index in Metro Manila
(1978 equal 100)

Year/ Month	All Items	Food	Beverages & Tobacco	Crude materials except fuel	Mineral fuels lubricants & related materials	Chemicals including animal & vegetable oils & fats	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials	Machinery & transport equipment	Miscellaneous manufactured articles
1985	366.6	388.6	346.3	369.0	519.0	411.2	416.7	295.2	404.6
January	365.1	336.6	333.2	359.2	548.9	404.1	415.4	293.2	395.1
February	363.8	333.5	335.6	361.9	548.2	405.2	416.9	293.1	398.2
March	361.9	333.1	338.7	363.9	519.9	407.8	413.8	294.4	401.3
April	363.6	335.6	341.1	369.7	511.6	408.8	416.4	295.3	403.0
May	364.2	336.5	341.2	365.4	510.7	412.0	416.1	297.3	402.6
June	363.1	334.4	345.6	367.0	511.5	412.6	415.3	297.1	402.8
July	368.4	342.0	350.0	365.4	512.6	412.6	417.1	295.2	404.3
August	376.6r	340.3	353.3	366.7	512.6	413.3	417.7r	294.2	404.4
September	367.0	339.1	353.5	373.3	512.6	412.6	417.0	294.6	405.4
October	368.5	340.7	353.1	376.3	512.7	414.4	418.3	295.1	409.8
November	370.8	344.1	354.9	377.8	513.2	415.1	417.9	295.5	412.0
December	373.2	347.4	355.7	379.8	513.2	416.5	418.4	297.1	416.3
1986									
January	377.8	354.7	365.1	383.7	505.7	419.1	416.2	301.9	416.7
February	373.4	350.8	369.8	384.2	454.1	422.6	418.1	312.0	421.2
March	373.1	349.5	373.7	382.0	448.8	430.5	418.7	317.2	423.2

r--revised

Source: National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO)

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CSO: 4200/1134

PHILIPPINES

FIRST QUARTER TRADE IMBALANCE REACHES \$150 MILLION

HK130948 Manila THE NEWS HERALD in English 12 Jun 86 p 8

[Text] The country incurred a trade imbalance of \$150 million from January to April this year, the National Economic and Development Authority [NEDA] reported yesterday.

Imports during the period were placed at \$1.63 billion against exports of \$1.48 billion, the NEDA said.

This year's deficit for the first 4 months of the year is so far the lowest since 1984.

Last year, the comparative trade gap was placed at \$211 million and in 1984 at \$257 million, according to the NEDA report.

In April, the NEDA statistics showed, total export earnings amounted to \$396 million, against imports of \$414 million for a trade deficit of \$18 million for that month alone.

Exports in April dropped 3.9 percent from \$412 million in March of the same year, according to the agency.

Imports, however, were lower at \$414 million. The NEDA said the country paid a total of \$490 million in imports in the preceding month.

The NEDA said total export earnings during the first 4 months of the year of \$148 billion reflected a 2.6 percent decline in revenues on an annual basis.

Imports during the 4-month period, the NEDA continued, reached only \$1.63 billion or 5.8 percent lower than last year's comparative payments of \$1.63 billion.

In terms of volume, the top dollar earner for the month of April was the electronic and component sector with \$69.6 million, but still a decline of 1.14 percent from the previous month's \$70.4-million revenue.

The biggest decline in export earnings, however, was incurred by the tobacco sector which sold only \$500,000 from \$2.8 million in March, for a drop of 82.14 percent.

The top gainer during the month was the iron ore agglomerate (sinter) sector with earnings rising by 154.29 percent, from \$3.5 million in March to \$8.9 million in April.

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CSO: 4200/1134

PHILIPPINES

AUDIT COMMISSION INVESTIGATES COCONUT LEVY

HK131600 Quezon City BUSINESS DAY in English 13 Jun 86 p 13

[By Ramon R. Isberto]

[Text] The Commission on Audit [COA] has revived an old legal issue about the coconut levy collections that may ultimately topple the claim that 1.4 million coconut farmers own the levy collections and the business empire that has been built with the money.

In its special audit on the P9.7-billion fund, the COA ruled that the proceeds of the controversial levy is "tax money which should go to the public treasury."

COA's findings have a direct bearing on current efforts of the Presidential Commission on Good Government [PCGG] to untangle the extremely complex affairs of the network of companies under the umbrella of United Coconut Planters Bank [UCPB].

A PCGG goal is to pinpoint interests of top Marcos associate Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr, former president of UCPB and chief of about 140 related and unrelated companies before he fled the country along with ex-President Marcos last February.

Cojuangco is alleged to have used his close links with Marcos to set up the coconut levy funds and to allow the use of these funds to build up a chain of private business concerns. Within the bank, Cojuangco is alleged to have used his position to control the shares nominally owned by coconut farmers.

If the levy proceeds are indeed public funds, the government may end up owning virtually all the interests now being claimed by various quarters in the coconut industry in the name of the coconut farmers.

Explaining the commission's findings, COA chairman Teopisto Guingona told newsmen last week that the levy was an "enforced collection imposed on the proceeds of the sale of coconut products for a public purpose."

This statement is based on the fact that under numerous Marcos decrees regarding the coconut levy, the Philippine Coconut Authority [PCA] set the levy rate,

collected the proceeds and deposited the collections--first with Philippine National Bank [PNB] and later with UCPB.

Guingona condemned what he called "legal manipulation" that turned the coconut levy collections from a public fund into a private one which "vested interests" used to their advantage.

In Guingona's view then, the numerous uses to which the levy funds were used--including investments in UCPB and a several coconut oil mills--may amount to misappropriation of public funds.

The implications of such a ruling on UCPB are huge. Based on disclosures made by UCPB management, the coconut farmers directly own about 52 percent of the bank's 747.17 million common shares of stock. Another 8 percent is owned by five coconut mills and United Coconut Planters Life Assurance, all supposed to be owned by the coconut farmers. The coconut farmers thus own directly and indirectly about 447 million common shares, or 60 percent of the total.

If such investments constitute a case of "misappropriation of public funds" as implied by the COA ruling, then the shares supposedly in the name of coconut farmers may be subject to government action.

For the PCGG, the COA ruling may provide a basis for sequestering that controlling block of UCPB shares which Cojuangco is alleged to have controlled and used to perpetuate his hold on the bank.

The PCGG has been resorting to other pressure tactics to pry loose Cojuangco's alleged interests in UCPB and related companies. One is trying to identify which blocks of shares are directly owned by Cojuangco along with those which he controlled through nominees.

As admitted by UCPB officials, Cojuangco's holdings in the bank include about 133 million shares or 17.77 percent of the total common shares.

PCGG officials claim, however, that Cojuangco's direct and indirect holdings may be at least 43 percent.

The COA finding gives the government a crack at the controlling 60 percent of the bank's voting shares without even touching the suspected Cojuangco holdings.

About 2 weeks ago, PCGG Commissioner Raul Daza expressed concern that representatives of some bank officials had gone around just before the change in government last February to buy up UCPB stock certificates given to coconut farmers. Other reports had it, on the other hand, that stock certificates of several coconut oils were being distributed to coconut farmers.

The purpose, it appears, was to bolster claims that the mills were indeed owned by coconut farmers. COA's interpretation of the nature of the coconut levy would make such maneuvers academic. The COA findings are thus bound to meet stiff resistance from affected industry quarters.

How the matter will be resolved will depend on how the courts will interpret the various decrees under which the levy was set up and the investments from the funds were made.

Of particular interest are Presidential Decrees No 755, PD No 961 and PD No 1468.

Issued July 29, 1975, PD No 755 authorized the PCA to buy through PNB a 72 percent interest in First United Bank "on behalf of the coconut farmers," using P28.9 million from the levy funds.

The decree also authorized the PCA to use an additional P80.8 million of levy funds to increase First United Bank's capital--by then renamed as United Coconut Planters Bank--to meet the P100-million capital requirement set by the Central Bank.

PD No 961 (issued July 14, 1976) and PD No 1468 (issued June 11, 1978) authorized the use of P694,833.81 of levy funds to finance the printing, preparation and distribution to 353,802 coconut farmers of the shares of stock representing their investments in UCPB.

PD No 961--along with three PCA board resolutions--was also used as the legal basis for using P23 million of levy funds to finance, among others, the distribution to coconut farmers of UCPB cash and stock dividends, and a nationwide survey to identify the farmers entitled to shares of the companies owned by coconut farmers (by then numbering 1.36 million).

PD No 755 authorized the PCA to distribute, for free, UCPB shares to the coconut farmers. Section 9 of the PD No 1468, on the other hand, gave ICPB "full power and authority to make investments...in corporations organized for the purpose of engaging in the establishment and the operation of industries and commercial activities and other allied business undertakings relating to the coconut and other palm oils industry in all its aspects...."

Section 10 of that decree authorized UCPB to "equitably" distribute, for free, investments made by the bank to the coconut farmers "except such portion of the investments which it may consider necessary to retain to insure continuity and adequacy of financing of the particular endeavor."

Both PD No 755 and PD No 1468 provide that the various funds under the coconut levy shall not be considered as "special and/or fiduciary funds, or as part of the general funds of the national government" as defined by PD No 711.

PD No 1468 added that the funds are not a "subsidy, donation, levy, government-funded investment or government share" as provided for by PD No 898. That decree said the intention use [as published] that the levy funds and the disbursements of these shall be "owned" by the coconut farmers "in their private capacities."

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PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

DEPARTMENT STORE BLAST--Zamboanga, Philippines, June 16 (AFP)--At least 11 people were injured when a grenade exploded in a department store here Monday, witnesses said. The blast ripped through the ground floor of Shoppers' Plaza which is this southern city's biggest department store, the witnesses said. At least 11 people were injured and 3 of them seemed to have suffered serious injuries, they added. Zamboanga, on Mindanao Island, is a hotbed of a 14-year-old Muslim separatist rebellion. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0733 GMT 16 Jun 86 HK] /8918

CSO: 4200/1134

MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SECURITY

VIETNAM

BINH TRI THIEN BANK DIRECTOR JAILED FOR ABUSING AUTHORITY

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAIPHONG in Vietnamese 20 Mar 86 p 4

[Text] Recently in Phu Bai town, the People Court of Binh Tri Thien Province tried Le Ngoc Vinh, a former acting bank director in Huongphu District, who was charged with profiting from his position to obtain a bribe from a production base level unit.

Le Ngoc Vinh taking advantage of his position forced bribes of money and gold from the Tien Phong and Vinh An Four fishing collectives in order to get a production development loan from the state bank.

Having obtained a loan of 3.5 million from the state to build a fishing boat, Van Binh, head of the Tien Phong fishing collective went to the Huongphu District bank to transfer the check, but Vinh caused lots of difficulties. Binh then visited Vinh at his private home. Vinh forced Binh to give him a tael of gold to transfer the check. As he wanted to own the fishing boat early, Binh discussed this with the cooperative members and motivated them to contribute gold to bribe Vinh. Vinh also demanded 10 percent of the loan, whenever the fishing team cashed the check.

Similarly, Nguyen Van Huyen, head of the Vinh An Four fishing collective had to offer him 0.6 tael of gold and 65.000 dong in order to withdraw a loan of 340.000 dong from the bank to cover expenses for repair of his fishing boat. Thus, Vinh obliged those two fishing collectives to bribe him with 1.4 [sic] tael of gold and 94.000 dong.

The People Court of Binh Tri Thien Province sentenced Le Ngoc Vinh to 9 years in jail and ordered him to return the whole sum of money and gold to the above fishing groups. Binh and Huyen, though involved in the bribery, were coerced to do so; they acknowledged their fault and denounced Vinh in time, therefore they both were acquitted by the judge.

13154/9365
CSO: 4209/496

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TRADE, AND AID

VIETNAM

SWEDISH AID AGENCY DIRECTOR DEFENDS BAI BANG PROJECT

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 5 May 86 p 5

[Op Ed article by Carl Tham, general director of SIDA; first paragraph is DAGENS NYHETER introduction]

[Text] Hans-Goran Myrdal is not interested in the people in Vietnam or in what Sweden can do for them. His criticism of Bai Bang is intended solely to discredit Vietnam and aid to that country, writes Carl Tham, general director of SIDA [Swedish International Development Authority].

Hans-Goran Myrdal, special debate director for the SAF [Swedish Employers Confederation], has written another unreasonable article (DAGENS NYHETER's "Debate" page, 28 April) on aid to Vietnam. Now as before, Myrdal has a very absentminded interest in facts. Myrdal arrays himself in suitable indignation over the difficult situation of Vietnamese forest workers, but it is as clear as anything can be that he is really not interested in those people or, even less, in what Sweden can do to help them. His purpose is exclusively ideological--that is, it is an attempt to discredit Vietnam and aid to Vietnam. That is why Myrdal rejects anything which might indicate that people are in fact better off partly as a result of Swedish aid efforts.

Reports trying to make such a claim must be incorrect or "politically ordered," otherwise they do not tally with Myrdal's order of things. That is also why Myrdal takes such pains to avoid facts and is so fond instead of slippery insinuation and innuendo.

For example, he rejects--as though in passing and as though he is merely alluding to a well-known fact--the entire Bai Bang project: "notorious for its constant failures." Really? Bai Bang is responsible today for about one-third of Vietnam's paper production. It produced about 23,000 metric tons in 1985, and this year's figure will probably be higher. Bai Bang represents primarily a sizable transfer of know-how: schooling in industrial technology and organization that is of very great importance to a nation which to a large extent lacks that know-how. Bai Bang has created many thousands of jobs in a country that has permanent underemployment.

Work by SIDA and the Swedish Government on the problem of conditions for the forest workers has been based on the conviction that we can and should make efforts to improve the situation. It is obvious that working conditions are difficult, partly because Vietnam is a poor developing country and partly because the work must be done in undeveloped areas with manpower which must unavoidably be recruited elsewhere. It was the low productivity in forest work a few years ago which led SIDA to commission a special consultant's report on working conditions. Why was productivity so low? The answer was provided in the consultant's report from Larsson and Birgegård.

Myrdal's insinuations that SIDA's management at the time tried to keep that report secret are completely false, of course--the report was presented at a press conference as soon as the Vietnamese had had a chance to read it. Nor did the report claim, as Myrdal states, that 20,000 forest workers had been forcibly recruited, although it did indeed draw attention to a number of abuses as far as both hiring methods and material conditions were concerned.

SIDA took that information very seriously and proposed that subsidies for the forestry portion of the Vinh Phu project (which is the project usually called Bai Bang) continue for only 1 year and that further subsidies be made contingent on Vietnamese willingness to improve conditions substantially. Specific funds for improvement were also allocated.

In September 1985, a special task force consisting of representatives of the Vietnamese authorities, the Scanmanagement consulting firm, and SIDA's aid office was set up in Vietnam. That group was to propose measures and also monitor developments. We emphasized that it was up to Vietnamese authorities to take responsibility for ensuring that improvements occurred.

SIDA monitored developments in several different ways. A special consultant--Lisbeth Bostrand--was called in, and she has submitted a report. It was quite clear that she had little time at her disposal, the simple reason being that decisions on the future forestry program had to be made in the spring of 1986. Myrdal does his utmost to question Bostrand's judgment and ability to evaluate the situation. He even seems to hint that the consultant was instructed to deliver a favorable report. That is an absurd and insulting accusation against both SIDA and the consultant, who came with the best recommendations from, among others, the ILO. It may be worth noting that Bostrand has considerable experience with conditions for forest workers in developing countries and that it was precisely because of that experience that she was hired. Comparing the conditions for forest workers in Vietnam with conditions in other developing countries is not at all without value or a matter of indifference; in fact, it is the only relevant comparison one can make.

Bostrand naturally explains the limitations from which the study suffers, the chief one being the short time available to her. She finds that as a result of Vietnam's well-developed social benefits, its forest workers are better off than forest workers in many other places in Asia when it comes to education, health care, pregnancy leave, and so on. That opinion is shared by the ILO, which commented on the study. Bostrand also finds that substantial improvements have been made or are being made--but that, naturally, many

problems continue to exist. She considers it helpful that efforts are being made to encourage the forest workers to take up gardening and agriculture as a means of raising their living standard.

Bostrand's report is not the only basis for SIDA's position. Developments have been monitored continuously by SIDA's aid office in Hanoi. Since December, we have also had a special Vietnamese-speaking Swedish consultant stationed in the area to monitor developments full time.

The picture that emerges from those reports is that Vietnam is making substantial improvements on behalf of the forest workers, considering the limited resources available to the country. The process is not complete, and there are naturally many shortcomings. The emphasis on family agriculture is important, since the result may be the creation of a cadre of individuals combining forestry work with agriculture, a development that may increase the attractiveness of the work. A growing settled population in the area means that functioning communities can develop, and that in turn is of great importance in the recruitment of manpower.

Myrdal claims that I said that all coercion had been eliminated. But I did not say that. In connection with SIDA's letter to the government, I stated that it was not possible to present a completely clear-cut picture. The Vietnamese claim that recruitment is voluntary and that those hired can quit. That corresponds to what we have been able to observe. At the same time, it is clear that like many Asian societies, Vietnamese society is strongly collective in character, and very few people really have extensive freedom of choice. Poverty, the objective lack of alternative job choices, and social pressure often place narrow limits on the individual.

We cannot make any absolutely definite statements, nor do we wish to. We feel, however, that the situation has improved and that Vietnamese authorities are making serious efforts to continue that process. We also feel that Swedish aid and a Swedish presence can help the process continue. Even Myrdal can scarcely believe that living conditions for the people in question would improve if aid were discontinued.

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PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

VIETNAM

ASSAULT YOUTH FORCE, COMMUNIST YOUTH PROJECTS DISCUSSED

Hanoi THANH NIEN in Vietnamese Mar 86 pp 17-18, 21

[Article by Tran Hoang Linh: "At the 11th Youth Union Central Committee Conference--More Discussion About the Youth Union's Two Modes of Activities"]

[Text] At the conference of the Youth Union Central Committee held this time in Bac Thai, when the conference reviewed and evaluated the work in 1985 and set the guidelines for 1986, it debated most vehemently the youth union's two modes of activities--the assault youth formations taking part in economic construction and the communist youth projects at various levels.

First of all, we must mention the assault youth formations that have been set up to build the economy. By the beginning of this year, 20 provinces and municipalities throughout the country have organized assault youth forces of different sizes ranging from large ones being set up in long-term concentrations like the assault youth formations of Ho Chi Minh City, the capital city of Hanoi, Long An, Quang Ninh, and so on to young and medium-size ones like the ones in Hoang Lien Son, Thuan Hai, Haiphong, and so on. In the present difficult economic situation, while the numbers of employed youths in municipalities and cities increase every year and the country has not yet fully exploited its land resource, we can say that the birth of assault youth formations is an extremely creative move on the part of youth union organizations and our country's youth movement aimed at fulfilling the two strategic tasks of building and defending the fatherland.

As an earlier article in THANH NIEN pointed out, to organize the assault youths for doing economic work is an urgent national need and a basic way for the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union to do its work in the present revolutionary stage. After doing their work a period of time, these organizations become independent production and business units working in the capacity of a juridical person and under the economic accounting system. From the organizational standpoint, they gather youths of all strata, mostly those who are still unemployed. The assault youth force of Ho Chi Minh City, which was established after the liberation, has gathered all strata of youths, students, college students, and teenagers, all victims of the old regime and different in terms of educational background, family situation, and political views, who now serve the same purpose under the banner of the assault youth: to open new land so as to get more wealth for the country and to train and

improve themselves. For nearly a decade, 50,000 youths of the municipality have been trained and have matured, with very many of them having become good management cadres.

The Hanoi assault youth general unit, with thousands of members, has been operating in such fields as coal mining, afforestation, and construction to satisfy the capital city's urgent socioeconomic needs. In Quang Ninh, Haiphong, and Long An, the assault youth forces have also developed their own strength and helped the localities to resolve many key economic problems. In the last few years, this work mode of the youth union, at different levels of activities, has been considered an effective mode and recognized by all echelons and sectors as a good one that should be further developed and multiplied.

In a working session of the 11th Youth Union Central Committee Conference, Council of Ministers Chairman Pham Van Dong had this to say about the assault youth: "Displaying the traditions of the assault youth for the resistance against America for national salvation, today's assault youth formations are a very fine image of the young people of our country. This is an extremely good, extremely beautiful, and extremely effective form. I hope that in the time to come you organize them even more properly and more effectively."

About the communist youths' projects, in recent years in THANH NIEN we have successively introduced the various forms of communist youth projects ranging from central level to ward, district, village, and other levels, such as the ones in Hoa Binh and Pha Lai, the ones in the Bach Dang Ship-building Enterprise, in Nong Cong (Thanh Hoa), Dau Tieng (Tay Ninh), Cam Xuyen (Nghe Tinh), City of Dong Ha (Binh Tri Thien), and so on; and according to preliminary reviews by the Youth Union Central Committee Secretariat, this is a good mode of activities that brings about realistic results and is good in terms of work, manpower, organization, and the youths' collective ownership right. During discussions of the resolution this time, many provincial, municipal, and local youth union delegates hoped that this kind of formations would be reviewed, with experiences being drawn from them, and widely multiplied and put in the right direction.

In the opinion of Le Phuong Thao, secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City Municipal Youth Union, 1985 was a "bumper crop" year in terms of communist youth projects, and this kind of formations has created great effects on society, has grown in both depth and breadth, and has offered many good models that could be multiplied; and eventually, the young people's objectives on the communist youth project work sites must truly be resolving the difficult, necessary, and weak aspects. This really is the concern of many provincial and municipal youth union chapters throughout the country. Nguyen Van Ky, secretary of Quang Ninh Provincial Youth Union; Nghia, secretary of Dong Thap; and the secretary of Tay Ninh--where there are strong communist youth projects--share the same idea: In the communist youth projects, the role of the Communist Youth Union, which has been affirmed and must remain affirmed, has to show very clearly.

About the communist youth projects at central level, the matters that are raised are somewhat more difficult because of the larger scope and the

involvement of many ministries, sectors, and localities. As materials and raw materials are being in short supply, the key projects requiring large investment are all put under state management and supervision by the key ministry. In this case where do we fit the youth union organization role? Is it necessary for youths to be assigned the entire work in these projects? In the communist youth projects in Hoa Binh and Pha Lai, total assignments were given to many shops, enterprises, and vehicle and machine teams, which have shown the youths' creative managerial capabilities; however, with the scope of such large projects, it is not always possible for us to accept total assignments of entire projects. Therefore, as an immediate goal, the correct thing for us to do is that we must pay special attention to the political sponsorship task in such projects, properly carry out the efforts to make youths ready to be sent to these key projects in accordance with letters of recommendation from the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, be concerned about the cultural and spiritual life of the youths at work sites, and properly organize emulation and education of the new men, as the Youth Union Central Committee has done lately. In a not too distant future, perhaps we will build youths' cities in the Central Highlands and youths' island on Con Dao Island, in accordance with the bold but rather romantic revolutionary intentions of the comrades in Ho Chi Minh City and Con Dao, but we really should choose the good opportunities, know our own capabilities, go by steps, avoid being too adventurous, and along with the sectors concerned carefully calculate the mode of management adopted by the youth union as we accept such "big projects," as well as the problems that would arise, the things that would develop in depth, and the new situation, which require that we gradually improve things by learning from experience. There is no single mode of activities, particularly the youth union's mode of economic activities, that is easily recognized right away and is successfully carried out right at the time there still are not enough favorable conditions and cadres.

The same thing applies to the communist youth projects in provinces, municipalities, wards, and districts. With investments made by the administration, youths will be shouldering the key task as spearheads in order to build their localities' economic and cultural projects, to gather in labor organizations which train and educate them, and to mature through these activities. In the present situation, it is necessary to develop all the young people's creative capacity; however, in any project, investment is to be made by the administration and youths are the main-force army that carries the work. Do not ask for "separate kingdoms" for the youths before they accept to do anything. The youth union organizations in all localities must consider themselves the strongest assault army being most capable of helping to dissipate the difficulties that now exist in the economy and society. In some localities some youth union cadres have said that the fact that youths were not free to build enterprises by themselves and were not assigned entire projects amounts to their being "hired hands" only. This is not a correct opinion about youth projects. The reason is that, as we pointed out earlier, there may be projects of different scopes and that, in this case, the responsibilities and contract terms must also be at different levels. Some youth union bases believe that in spite of all the talking about developing the assault role of youths for the fulfillment of any socioeconomic tasks, if there is no money available for their operations, any youth union organizations will find their hands bound and will be unable to do anything.

Although the youth union wants to be active and to expand the movement, all depends on the money provided by the administration. How do we go about resolving this matter? On the one hand, we will accept the difficult and weak aspects that need the assault role of youths and properly fulfill them, and there will be appropriate rewards. About this point, we remember the communist youth project to overfulfill the plan of the Dong Ha City cement factory at the end of 1982. The Dong Ha City Youth Union, by accepting the youth project, helped the factory to surpass the goal of its plan by tens of tons of cement and was awarded millions of dong, which gave it the means to organize later many activities for youths. The communist youth projects in Dau Tieng (Tay Ninh), Nong Cong (Thanh Hoa), Cam Xuyen (Nghe Tinh), and so on involved similar ways of doing things, which are proved to be the most appropriate ways today. On the other hand, when youths fulfill their assigned tasks, the party committee echelons and administration in their localities also must show their proper concern about the young people's interests and create favorable conditions for youth union organizations to operate better. And why can't we organize communist labor days to raise money, which remains a very good form of activity for the young people in communist youth projects? The question is to know how to organize.

Another point that deserves our attention is that communist youth projects, no matter at whatever level they may be, must be of large scope and bring about considerable results. Avoid the situation in which this form is abused as the youth union may organize something, no matter how small, even the removal of some trash in the street or a Saturday afternoon cleanup, and still call it a youth project.

Finally, we want to affirm that the two youth union's modes of activities as mentioned above are basically good, are in the right direction, and have been recognized by the party, state, and people as effective ones. We would like to reiterate here the opinion of the chairman of the Council of Ministers: This is the right direction and the effective way of doing things, but we should not stick too much to formalities and must do everything possible to multiply it and to make it more effective in the time to come.

5598

CSO: 4209/558

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

VIETNAM

HO CHI MINH CITY PRECINCT SETS UP YOUTH NEIGHBORHOODS

Hanoi THANH NIEN in Vietnamese Mar 86 pp 22, 23

[Article by Nguyen Hoang Thuc, secretary, Ho Chi Minh City 6th Precinct Youth Union Committee: "Youth Neighborhoods"]

[Text] The building of "youth neighborhoods" throughout Ho Chi Minh City is expanding and opening up a new direction for youth union activities. Receiving an enthusiastic assistance from the reporters of THANH NIEN magazine, we would like to mention some aspects of building "youth neighborhoods" as our contribution to the youth union's experiences in street activities.

Neighborhoods today are a complicated population center of dissimilar nature where all daily activities, good or bad, are not held for, by, and in connection with youths but rather as the result of the interaction of people of all walks of life, age groups, and occupations who live there. But to take part in the construction of wards is the new direction set by the youth union for its activities. Consequently, the policy calling for building "youth neighborhoods" reflects the coordination among three forces--the youth union, public security force, and army--in Ho Chi Minh City aimed at developing the young people's collective ownership spirit in taking part in the management of the state and society in a more profound and total manner and at creating more realistic "models."

The movement to build "youth neighborhoods" in the 6th Precinct has originated from this concept. The substance of the task of building "youth neighborhoods" is that of the activities of the assault youth force. We can say that all of the latter's activities conform with the requirements of this task. Therefore, in accordance with the criteria set for "youth neighborhoods," first of all they must be "safe neighborhoods" and there must be a strong ward youth union chapter, a chapter of the Vietnam Youth Federation, and a strong and stable assault youth force that includes specialized units like voluntary labor unit, fire prevention and control unit, cultural construction unit, red cross unit, and so on, as well as a unified, enthusiastic, and capable command.

The youth union and youth federation chapters and assault youth force there must know how to act as the staffs of the party and ward executive committee

while being directly involved in properly carrying out the social work. Special attention must be paid to knowing the state of the youths' jobs and recommending to subwards formulas for resolving the employment question. The movement to encourage youths to fulfill their military obligation and to select new members for the assault youth force must attain and surpass the goal set in the regulation; at the same time, the army's work in the rear area must be properly done.

Properly participate in the management of prices and market; unmask in time those who do unlawful business; and effectively strive to get rid of "black addresses" of speculators and smugglers within your ward.

As a compulsory criterion, "youth neighborhoods" must properly build the new cultural way of living; have wholesome artistic activities; and through education and propaganda encourage the masses the fight against and to limit to a minimum the old-fashioned habits, superstitious practices, signs of lack of cultural capabilities, and expensive and unnecessary forms of funerals, weddings, death anniversaries, and so on.

To do well the work for teenagers and children after school is also a major criterion that shows whether a neighborhood is qualified as a "youth neighborhood" or not.

Unlike the youth projects in which the sectors concerned can when recognized show a plaque bearing their names and display it for a long time, particularly in the case of the projects involving the products that have been made according to the principle of total assignment, the "youth neighborhoods" can show their recognition plaques at the entrance to the ward for only a year and have to remove them if they fail to be recognized in the following year. To retain the title of "youth neighborhood" actually is a fierce, permanent, and lasting emulation. All neighborhoods in subwards and in the entire precinct can register in the emulation to build "youth neighborhoods," with as many neighborhoods being recognized as possible.

At the present time, in Ho Chi Minh City in general and in the 6th Precinct in particular, there still are many large "youth neighborhood" plaques, but they are only signs that do not show any real values and create the impressions in the masses that the "youth neighborhoods" are no better than the normal neighborhoods. We suggest that the neighborhoods that have not yet been recognized quickly remove those plaques or, in case they are needed for propaganda purposes to mobilize the youths in the neighborhood, add these words to make them clearer: "Neighborhood having registered for building youths neighborhoods." Although this is a matter of form, if we do not do it correctly, it will reduce the confidence, assistance, support, and recognition of the masses.

If we want to have a strong and widespread movement, we must have unanimity in the leadership and extend this policy to all committees and sectors, with the youth union serving as the backbone. A conference to develop the movement can be organized at the precinct or subward level. The conference in the 6th Precinct, which was held on 26 March 1984, decided to build on a trial basis two "youth neighborhoods" in Neighborhood 4 of Subward 10 and Neighborhood 2

of Subward 5. We selected those two neighborhoods because we had there many people who were self-employed, security and order were poor, and the social ills had not been resolved in a clear-cut manner.

After a year, both neighborhoods have become safe ones and have been recognized as "youth neighborhoods" and the public security sector's "safe neighborhoods."

As our experience indicates, if we want to successfully build youth neighborhoods, the youth union chapters there must have strong determination, have a statement of registration clearly showing intentions and plans, use propaganda to make youths and the masses understand them, and encourage everybody to take part in the building effort and to lend it support and active assistance. To do so all youth union chapters, in coordination with the local public security force, must discuss with neighborhood cells the contents of their neighborhood-building plans and seek the participation of all in carrying them out.

At present, of 76 neighborhoods in 17 subwards of the 6th Precinct 25 have registered to build "youth neighborhoods." The work that leads to recognition of the 1985 "youth neighborhoods" is urgently being done, with recognition being already made as to the "youth neighborhoods" that have succeeded in maintaining the movement since 1984 and deserve being commended, such as Neighborhood 2 of Subward 5, Neighborhood 4 of Subward 10, and Neighborhood 4 of Subward 16.

After making a final review and getting experience for 1985, we have decided to continue accelerating the movement to build "youth neighborhoods." We believe that in 1986 the neighborhoods in the 6th Precinct of Ho Chi Minh City will obtain greater results, get more profound experiences, and contribute to stepping up the youth's work in one of the more complicated areas today--the streets in our neighborhoods.

5598

CSO: 4209/558

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

VIETNAM

GEOLOGIST COMMENTS ON NEW MANAGEMENT MECHANISM

Paris DOAN KET in Vietnamese No 379, Apr 86 pp 31-33

[Article by Tran Kim Thach: "The New Mechanism Is Certain To Win"]

[Text] After the Municipal Party Committee of Ho Chi Minh City and the board of directors of the University briefed me in detail about the contents of Resolution 8, I could not avoid being amazed by of the excessively fierce dismantlement of a management mechanism to which I had tried very hard to adapt to during the past 10 years: the bureaucratic centralism-state subsidy mechanism.

Let us review the 1975-1985 period. My colleagues and I were immersed in the work of training basic geologists in a new school. The socialist system, with its manner of systematic, planned investigation and research and farsighted vision, is both new and attractive. In that working method, there is something that mixes together ideals and career, everyone and one's self. If everyone does his utmost in a self-enlightened manner, if everyone makes the maximum contribution to repay those who gave their lives and those who are still bedfast with serious war wounds, it is certain that all mechanisms are good and all accomplishments are beneficial. Therefore, at that time, we never thought of mechanisms, but were concerned with how to increase productivity, while also resolving problems in our sector that were related to society. That problem was the training of basic geologists who had both heart and ability. There was nothing else.

What Had To Come Came

After several years of teaching we noted that our students were not studious, lacked effectiveness, and did not try. Had difficult circumstances affected their lives? Perhaps. However, in comparison to the time when we were still in school the college students of today have much better conditions: they receive stipends, have a place to eat and study, and are taken many places. It may be said that in the past, when we were still students, what we did not have the children of today have. On the contrary, what we had in the past has been taken from the children of today, for example the shame of a lost country and the fate of being servants. But our young friends still did not try to advance, even though they had the all-out concern of the schools and the teachers.

The first regular class I trained, which graduated from the school in the memorable year of 1980, left behind for their beloved school, where they had everything, a document which abused the teachers to the extreme and accused the school of many ugly things. When our young friends left the school they were appointed one place or another as if nothing had happened. Those who did poorly graduated, those who did well graduated, those who had a serious attitude graduated, and those who were chronic troublemakers also graduated. Were such people the spiritual and intellectual products of the new society? What allowed such a machinelike process?

After 20 years of teaching I felt bitterness arising in my soul. All of the teachers sadly reviewed their work. Clearly, it was because of a strange mechanism, in never brought about specific justices. Everything, depended on a plan sent down from above which had to be fulfilled at all costs.

Responsibility and rights do not differ. People who failed to fulfill their mission needed only write a few lines of self-criticism and then continued to commit mistakes. The lectures never changed and nothing ever happened because rights were assured by the collective, while the governmental administration never had an opinion that could be called persuasive. If a mistake were made in a lecture and the students corrected it themselves, that was good, but if it could not be corrected no one accepted responsibility. The teachers and students didn't feel that intellectual progress was necessary, and that it didn't matter whether what one knew was new or old, and once they started their careers the state would take care of their expenses no matter whether there was a profit or a loss. A very troublesome experience for us was that the tendency at that time was to use Binh Long limestone, which our school discovered with the assistance of Military Region 7, instead of Ha Tien limestone for the eastern region, for no matter how much it cost the state would make up the deficit! Because of the discontent of people who were not abreast of the times, such as myself, the explanation was like a law: the strength of the socialist economy was its unlimited ability to make up for deficits, so we would always be victorious!

There were research topics which required practically no, or very small, expenditures, but were allocated funds so large that they made me dizzy. I believed that I had always thought like a small producer and was overwhelmed when he saw a large amount of capital. But although I explained the situation to myself in that manner I was still perplexed. At a higher level, enormous sums were improved for many projects, but the people managing them did not have a corresponding stature, and even had to study many additional years before understanding them. Meanwhile, people who were fully qualified and could have brought about results more rapidly with little or no expense were not used. The explanation was simple: the funds were transferred to a functional organ and the functional organ transferred them to an employee of the organ. That was all! But if that were true, why set up high-level training sectors for the nation, since anyone could do anything?

Those hard-to-fathom matters, which gave me a headache every day, added to increasingly difficult living conditions, which gave me heartache every night, caused our work productivity to decline and our concentration to wander.

After the research projects, which achieved no results, sumptuous receptions were held, which caused us to be even more perplexed. When news of such things reached the school and were noted by the students, they caused them to think, to be miserable, and to be disgusted.

Reversing the Situation

One day I heard the following opinion expressed in a large conference: we had a mechanism which could not be understood and could not be endured. That was light shining from the other end of the tunnel: the problem was not people, not the regime, and not harsh conditions, but the management mechanism. Then resolutions 6 and 7 of the Party Central Committee were issued. They were truly penetrating, and each word and sentence in them accurately evaluated the situation and consequences of the bureaucratic centralism-state subsidy mechanism, to which I had never paid much attention. Of course, there is an appropriate time for all mechanisms. During the period of anti-U.S. resistance for national salvation the subsidy system was appropriate. Unfortunately, it was continued after the war. As I stated above, if all of us work as if worked as the vanguard warriors, the "troops of Uncle Ho," did in the past, perhaps the subsidy system would not do much harm. Perhaps it is mankind's finest mechanism. But that is nonsense. Because peacetime psychology differs from that of the past, there must be a different style of management, with very specific responsibilities and very specific people. The truth is that that specific responsibility in peacetime is economic responsibility, the consequences of which are nothing other than quality, productivity, and effectiveness.

If basic geology were placed in such a mechanism, the situation would have been reversed. From teaching for the sake of teaching and studying for the sake of studying, now we had to teach for society and for everyone, and our students also had to study for everyone. In the past that "red" concept was talked about a good deal in the school, but was only talked about and not put into practice, for whether it was put into practice or not made little difference. Sometimes when one practices what one preaches one encounters difficulties. I went all-out to create the training model assigned me by the school: combining teaching and study with labor according to sectors and trades, and with scientific experimentation and research, a model which prepared people for resolutions 6, 7, and 8, which began in 1976 but seldom been easy. Now I understand that the difficulty was that I trained people to oppose bureaucratic centralism and state subsidies, people who are self-reliant and contributed concretely to society. It is a source of happiness in my research life when I see a kernel of truth in the muddle of social problems.

Thus Resolution 8 will help us train high-quality students who, when they begin work, have a sense of responsibility and work with discipline and discipline. Thus Resolution 8 will also help us sort our students while they are still in school. We are allowed to transfer at an early date young people who are incapable and do not have the moral qualities necessary for their trade. As a result, they will be less unhappy, the school's burden will be reduced, and society will not be harmed in the future. I think that that is rational and should be carried out. It is certain that the school will agree not to continually encourage students to exert themselves in study,

but will take steps to promptly, correctly, and specifically reward or punish them, in order to select cadres for society, and will no longer engage in self-promotion and chat around cups of tea to attain a 100-percent advanced worker and Warrior of Emulation rating, while productivity does not increase, quality steadily declines, more and more difficulties are encountered in life, and negative phenomena continue to develop, which is a crime against the people and the nation. I've heard that scholarships will be used as economic levers. That method is very promising. But could it be thought that scholarships inspire promising young people? How could there be economic levers in schools, in courts, or in the army? People who do not have the expectation of becoming socialist intellectuals in the future cannot allow society to continue to assist them forever.

It is certain that in the course of implementing Resolution 8 difficulties will continue to be encountered, as foreseen by the Central Committee. That is a profound improvement which affects everyone, so much energy must be expended to implement it and the implementation period must be long. But the new mechanism is certain to succeed.

5616

CSO: 4209/551

PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

VIETNAM

SAIGON ON PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 21 Mar 86 pp 1, 4

[Article: "Insure That the People Truly Participate in the State's Affairs"]

[Text] We attentively followed part three of the political report of the CPSU Central Committee presented by Comrade Gorbachev at the 27th Party Congress (broadcast on TV network and published in full in SAIGON GIAI PHONG on 2 March 1986).

To us, the persuasiveness of the propositions expressed in the speech was that the Soviet party and state truly care for the welfare of the working people. By all means they have motivated the public to take part in state management, and the political activities of the country. "Management cannot be the privilege of a small professional group of persons...only when the people, in fact, manage their own work, and only when millions of people truly participate in the political life, will the socialist system grow prosperously. Comrade Gorbachev affirmed this at the party congress.

In fact, the inducement for the public to take part in state management has been taken into account seriously by the socialist countries, including ours. Lenin once wrote: "With us a strong nation is derived from mass consciousness. The state is strong only when the masses know everything, when they are able to evaluate everything and then act consciously." Beloved Uncle Ho also affirmed: "Socialism can only be built on the complete awareness and the creative work of millions of people." This is the vital problem demonstrating the nature of the democratic socialist system; it can be seen as the healthful and clear atmosphere necessary for the growth of the socialist body, and corresponds to what Comrade Gorbachev said.

But in practice, the problem is not simple. We think that, on one hand, the state must have legal regulations for the people's participation in state affairs. On the other hand, it is necessary to set up conditions for participation to be true and not for show. We still have some shortcomings in these two aspects. In our country, the systematization of the regime--consisting of: the party is the leader; the people are owners; the state is the manager--was established at General Congress 4, but we notice that it has not made much progress. Many legal regulations prescribed in the constitution as well as in the laws, decrees, and judicial documents said that

the power of the state belongs to the public, and the people execute their power through the national assembly and the people's council of all echelons. This is very clear and has been realized in practice.

But the role of the masses in and their participation through the various mass associations and social organizations are still obviously limited, because there were workers who got fired without being passed through the verification of the discipline council in which the role of the Labor Federation was especially important.

Our state also fully recognized the economic and social rights and the freedom and dignity of the workers. But in some places these rights have not been applied by basic level organizations. We will only mention the people's right to complain and of denunciation. Having determined that in carrying out this right, the masses are practicing supervision from the lower to the upper levels by verifying and discovering the wrongdoings of cadres, of state offices and protecting the legal rights of the people, why then do we still have complaints being given the run-around and have cases that have not been solved for 3 or 4 years, and sometimes have been hushed up. A number of workers bravely denounced the illegal actions of their directors, but cautiously remarked in the footnote "Please comrade, keep our names secret for fear of the retaliation of our directors."

In real life we saw many cadres and party members violate the law and transgress the ethical code. These violations originated from bureaucratic habits, isolation from the masses, lack of serious criticism and self-criticism, considering their positions and power as their privilege and private ownership psychology. Therefore, we strongly admired the Soviet Union's PRAVDA reports of the cases of Srashidov, the former first secretary of Uzbekistan, and Xkhubeisvili, former first secretary of Grudia, who broke the law and covered up for criminals. In Tadzhikistan, in the last 4 years, 37 leading cadres were dismissed for making serious mistakes in leadership, in economic management and in the execution of the law.

We think that these should absolutely not be seen as thoughtless revelations nor should we fear being taken advantage of by the enemy. These acts purify society and the state machine. Lenin said: minor violations of the law are minor deterioration of Soviet order provide the opening of which the enemies of the working people will be quick to take advantage. In other words, the enemy takes advantage of our crimes and not of their punishment.

Our party has frankly acknowledged an unusual fact, i.e., published laws of all kinds have not been executed seriously and the worst is that they have never been put into practice (Resolution of the Fifth Congress). This weakened the leadership role of the party (the party line is the soul of the law), the management effectiveness of the state was reduced, and made the collective ownership right of the working people uncertain. There is no shortage of laws in our country but the problem is: Have these laws been executed seriously or not? Certainly in the economic field the laws are very outdated. Many regulations become barriers, therefore economic

laws must be updated and they cannot be forgotten in the renovation of the current economic management system.

In setting up the self-criticism and criticism sessions among the party members and the leading cadres of all services and of all echelons, preparatory to all levels of party congresses, in accordance with the directive of the Secretariat of the CPV Central Committee, we petition that true guarantees and implementation of the workers rights, law enforcement attitudes, and state of law enforcement be included in the agenda for review. Our party also said: "Maintaining the party discipline, executing the laws of the state are two obligations for every party member, and there is no exception (Resolution of the Fifth Party Congress)." Only this can establish bases for the party and the state to achieve their most important duty that is: "Ensure the right and legal interest of the citizens and attract them to participate in state affairs. At the same time, wherever they are, they should feel "safe and cared for by the state against violation of their rights and believe that every lawbreaker would be fairly punished." (Gorbachev)

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PARTY ACTIVITIES AND GOVERNMENT

VIETNAM

READERS EXPRESS OPINIONS ON PARTY MEMBER DEFICIENCIES

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 12 May 86 p 3

[Party Building column: "Opinions on the Self-Criticism and Criticism Campaign"]

[Text] The prestige of the party has declined as a direct result of a number of negative phenomena on the part of cadres. The opinions of the people must be solicited in order to build the party. If mistakes are made they must be corrected. For example, if children and relatives have been brought into an organ and added to its rolls they must be dismissed. People who have been sent abroad improperly must be recalled. The mass must be encouraged to monitor cadres and evaluate merit, crimes, and right and wrong. Degeneration and negativeness on the part of some cadres must be overcome if relations between the party and the masses are to be closer. At present some installations are not carrying out self-criticism well. I recommend that the Central Committee take steps to overcome those problems that are in accord with the desires of the people.

Ho Thanh Pham
(Trung Hai Village, Ben Hai
District, Binh Tri Thien)

The party leadership cadres should deeply and incisively review and criticize their economic-social leadership, especially their leadership of plan implementation. In Resolution 8 of the Party Central Committee (fifth term) the party leadership is concerned with economics and national defense, but it must be concerned with expanding democracy in the party, pay attention to teaching cadres and party members revolutionary virtue, and continually oppose bureaucratism.

Ngo Long
Retired Army Captain
Nha Trang (Phu Khanh)

It is necessary to motivate the masses to struggle against negativism, recover all property resulting from the illegal livelihood of a number of cadres, and resolutely punish obstinate people. Experience has shown that when a mistake

is made it must be thoroughly corrected, from the central level down to the basic level, if the people's confidence is to be strengthened. I recommend that the Party Central Committee closely lead the self-criticism and control campaign, and apply strict discipline.

Pham Van Ngai
(Cadre active in the
revolution prior to 1945,
Phung Cong Village, Chau
Giang District, Hai Hung)

The people always have confidence in the party, but fault it for allowing a number of bad people to remain in state organs too long, which weaken the prestige of the party and creates difficulties for the people. I recommend that all cadres and party members who are degenerate, lack sincerity toward the party, take advantage of their authority, are corrupt, and sneak state goods to the outside be purged, so that after the Sixth Party Congress, in addition to fully utilizing land and labor to produce much labor, the negative phenomena can be overcome and the party's stands and policies can be strictly implemented, so that the people can have more confidence and be more enthusiastic.

Vu Dinh Uyen
(Collective housing area of the
Hanoi Construction College)

We are carrying out the construction of socialism under extremely difficult circumstances after having emerged from a fierce war. It is necessary to mobilize determination, confidence, and enthusiasm for production labor and economizing on the part of the entire population. But some cadres and party members who are corrupt, accept bribes, speculate, and engage in blackmarketing, have weakened the confidence of the people and their enthusiasm for labor.

A deep and incisive criticism and self-criticism campaign, combined with specific and real corrective measures and revealing the incomes of cadres and party members, would manifest determination to build a pure, strong party.

During a regular meeting of the Thanh Cong subprecinct Fatherland Front Committee on the afternoon of 6 May 1986 we unanimously applauded the opinions on that matter published in the newspaper NHAN DAN.

We think that that is an important and necessary matter which only fear will that something will be left out, not that it is wrong, and the good results have not yet been realized.

Nguyen Trong Dy
(On behalf of the Standing Committee of
the Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee,
Thanh Cong Subward, Ba Dinh Ward, Hanoi)

People who are concerned with the present political activity of the party were enthusiastic when they read in the 30 April 1986 issue of NHAN DAN an article about the Thach Hoa District Party Committee (Ha Tinh) was carrying out criticism and self-criticism combined with the overcoming of deficiencies. We think that that is the party spirit and is indicative of a strong party organization that dares look squarely at mistakes and deficiencies and find ways to correct them. As regards our locality, there have been some cadres who during the past several years have abused their authority and shortcomings of the state to do improper things.

We believe that such incidences should be strictly analyzed during criticism and self-criticism in order to strengthen the confidence of the people and promote the revolutionary movement of the masses.

Trong Nguyen
(Hai Hung)

At present, a self-criticism and criticism campaign is being carried out in the party to develop the good points and overcome the deficiencies and negative manifestations. The party newspaper has printed excerpts from the Resolution of the Fifth Party Congress and the teachings of President Ho on the qualities and style of party members and cadres. As party members who are active in basic-level organizations, we feel that that fulfilled the aspirations, wishes, and desires of the popular masses. We also feel that the social negativisms, especially those that have spilled over from the economic sectors to the social service sectors, and degeneracy, will never expose themselves but must be resolved by means of resolute, strict measures.

We also still note that negative phenomena and degeneration on the part of some people working in the real estate management and allocation sector and in the employment and organization sector. In those sectors some people have openly demanded bribes, bullied the masses, caused much red tape, caused the people to lose much time in travel, and caused people to incur many expenses and losses. They abuse their authority to steal state property to make deals or exchange for their individual benefit, thus causing social injustice. Therefore, we agree that party members and cadres must make clear the sources of their income that of their families so that their moral quality and style can be examined. But we feel that it is necessary to motivate the masses to truly struggle and supervise, and not merely deal with such incidents internally and cover up for one another. The degenerate cadres must be dealt with sternly and property they obtained illegally must be confiscated. The people with investigatory competence people with investigatory competence at all levels must be people with good moral quality and ability, who are diligent, honest, impartial, brave, and loyal.

NGUYEN DINH
(Le Hong Phong Subward,
City of Thai Binh)

5616
CSO: 4209/584

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE

VIETNAM

HO CHI MINH CITY SAID TO RESOLVE RAW MATERIALS PROBLEM

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 13 May 86 p 1

[Article: "Ho Chi Minh City Quickly Resolves Problem of Raw Materials and Materials for the Production of Consumer and Export Goods"]

[Text] On 9 May the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City held its fourth session, evaluated the implementation of the economic-social plan for the first quarter, and set forth an action program for the period between now and the end of the year.

During the first quarter of this year, due to shortcomings and deficiencies in the implementation of Resolution 8, Ho Chi Minh City encountered many difficulties in production, distribution, circulation, and prices. The living conditions of cadres, workers, civil servants, and members of the armed forces were unstable. Even so, the city made all-out efforts, and carried out many urgent, positive measures to resolve problems in production, distribution, and circulation, reorganize socialist commerce, and provide jobs for workers. The city, along with the provinces in the region, made all-out efforts to coordinate in doing a better job of implementing Resolution 8 of the Central Committee and Resolution 28 of the Central Committee and Resolution 28 of the Political Bureau endeavored to regain the initiative in controlling goods and money.

The industrial and small industry-handicrafts production installations in the city mobilized warehoused materials, regulated materials, and imported raw materials to fulfill the quarterly plan. In 1985 only 12 industrial enterprises and two precinct and district enterprises tried lowering production costs, but now dozens of installations are positively applying technical advances, rationalizing the production lines, opposing waste, lowering materials depletion norms, and endeavoring to lower production costs.

The foreign trade sector underwent a number of initial transformations in opposing competition in buying and selling and applied legal measures to deal with export units which distribute imported consumer goods internally at low prices. Materials and raw materials to serve second-quarter production are being imported to meet the needs of production.

Thirteen of a total of 18 precincts and districts have set up general technical education and vocational guidance centers which are attended by 30,000 students. Jobs have been provided for nearly 4,500 workers in the small industry-handicrafts and service sectors.

During the second quarter, with a spirit of reorganizing and increasing industrial production, small industry and handicrafts, agriculture, forestry, fishing, and communications-transportation, the city will positively streamline the administrative apparatus of the sector services and sections (a reduction of 30 percent by the end of the year), reorganize production of the textile, ready-made clothing, plastic, rubber, artistic goods, shoes, earthenware and porcelain, and glass sectors by economic-technical sector. It will promptly provide raw materials and materials for production, especially the production of consumer and export goods. The Export-Import General Corporation, along with the Planning Commission and the industrial, banking, and foreign trade services, have established a mechanism for repaying and borrowing foreign capital in order to accelerate production. The city is guiding a number of economic installations and enterprises in mobilizing capital in order to use equipment, machinery, and materials sent by Vietnamese living abroad to serve production. Implementing unified management of contracting in the spirit of the Council of Ministers resolution, the city is preparing conditions for producing hats, shoes, and clothing, and processing agricultural products, etc., on contract for the socialist countries. It is implementing a policy to rapidly develop hogs and develop the areas raising blue shrimp. The commercial sector is positively grasping the local sources of industrial goods to exchange with other provinces for agricultural products, foodstuffs, and raw materials to supply to the industrial and small industry-handicrafts sector and contribute to ensuring two meals a day for workers.

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CSO: 4209/ 584

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE

VIETNAM

HO CHI MINH CITY UNITS PARTICIPATE IN INSURANCE

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 May 86 pp 1, 4

[Article: "In Ho Chi Minh City Thousands of Units Participate in Insurance Work"]

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City is expanding the labor insurance work within the sphere of the city in order to help workers prevent and overcome accidents that occur during the work process.

In addition to the types of insurance reserved for the organs, such as export-import goods insurance, ship and ship-owner's liability insurance, and land and air transportation facilities insurance, there is traffic accident insurance, students' insurance, and recently labor insurance.

At present 2,240 transportation units with more than 24,000 motor vehicles, ships, and boats are participating in insurance. On the average, every year the insurance branch pays out 60 percent of the total amount of insurance money it collects. Tens of schools with nearly 566,000 students, 70 percent of the total number of students in the city, are participating in insurance. The insurance branch sets aside five to ten percent of its total income to spend on preventing student accidents.

Although the labor insurance work has only just begun, more than 30 units are participating. Five percent of the total income is used to, along with the units, prevent and limit labor accidents.

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ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE

VIETNAM

IRRATIONALITIES IN PRICE STRUCTURE DISCUSSED

Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 15 Apr 85 pp 1, 4

[Article by "V.H.L.": "Irrationalities in the Prices of Materials and Industrial Products"]

[Text] Stabilizing the prices of materials and products is a foremost goal which the Party, the state, and the economic managers from the central level down to the local level are concentrating on attaining. It is a major problem which requires the contributions of many echelons and of all working people. This article brings together a number of matters and presents opinions, in order to contribute to those efforts.

Many people say that during the recent period those engaged in export-import work have not gone a single day without using the word "pepper" at least once. "Three quintals of pepper, one automobile!" The price that is offered has caused many people to rush to exploit that product, and has caused a familiar, ordinary spice in the daily diets of all families to become a "luxury."

A comrade in the Municipal Price Commission complained that "the phenomenon of rushing to produce pepper for export is a special characteristic of the present situation of disorganized importing and exporting, affects the worker-peasant relationship, directly influences agricultural and industrial production, and destabilizes market prices."

From the Path of Export-Import Joint Operation...

In view of the situation of the state experiencing increasing difficulty in supplying materials, during the recent period the path of joint operations in exporting and importing has opened the way for many enterprises to balance their own plans, resolve some of their difficulties and bottlenecks, and advance to developing production and improve the workers' living conditions. Although it is applied in many different forms, in general that mode is still for an enterprise to borrow foreign exchange (domestically or abroad) in order to import raw materials (or borrow products or raw materials) with which to produce products, then works through an export-import unit (at the central,

municipal, or provincial level) to exchange goods with the peasants, purchase agricultural products for export, and recreate foreign exchange. That is an inevitable course for enterprises which must balance their own plans and use imported materials, but which cannot directly export their products, including such initial units as the Thanh Cong Textile Mill and the Soap Powder Corporation of the South, and such enterprises as the Phuong Long Textile Mill, Textile Mill No 3, the Coffee Cream enterprise, the Artistic Goods enterprise, the Binh Tay thermos enterprise, etc. Clearly, by means of that mode agricultural production is directly affected by agricultural production in our country and the situation of the world agricultural commodities market.

According to the exporters-importers, recently the world agricultural commodities market has been truly bad. We have had to lower the prices of our principal agricultural products, such as mung beans, peanuts, soybeans, cashews, etc., by 10 to 30 percent. The export price of coconut oil has declined by nearly 50 percent in comparison to last year and by more than 400 percent in comparison to the 1983-1984 period. In order to earn one dollar, on the average the export-import organs must exchange agricultural products worth about 200 Vietnamese dong.

Meanwhile, the continuous decline of the value of the dollar in comparison to the Japanese yen has caused the prices of materials and goods imported from Japan to increase by an average of about 30 percent. The Soap Powder Corporation of the South has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars because of the increased value of the yen.

The situation has not remained at that level but has continued to develop in a manner increasingly unfavorable for the industrial production units in our country. What can be done to ensure the production costs of products, ensure that products can be marketed, create a rapid capital turnover, and recreate foreign exchange? Those are difficult problems which often surpass the capability of the units and enterprises to resolve them.

To the Enterprises Which Are Supplied Materials and Use Domestic Raw Materials

Meanwhile, in many enterprises which are supplied raw materials by the state and use domestic raw materials, the situation is no more "cozy." The answer to the great concern at present is that production costs are being recalculated in order to request a review of industrial wholesale prices. Although the principal materials of the MSG and instant noodles enterprise federation are supplied by the state, the increase in the prices of domestic raw materials has been sufficient to cause financial ruin if it continues to sell products at prices set by the state. Tapioca powder purchased in Tay Ninh cost 3.15 dong per kilo on 1 October 1985 but its price has increased to 8.75 dong. Thus, added to transportation costs, for each ton of MSG produced it is necessary to spend 30,780 additional dong for tapioca powder. The price of activated charcoal is fixed at 36 dong per kilogram, but because the state does not provide enough the enterprise must contact other units and buy additional amounts at the price of 51.75 dong per kilo. The price of sugar residue, which had been 0.75 dong per kilo, increased to 2.25 dong after 15 March 1986. In general, in comparison to prices as of 1 October 1985, total

expenditures for raw materials and materials have increased by 37,970 additional dong for each ton of MSG.

At the electrical Machinery Combine Enterprise, this year's state plan calls for the production of 45,000 fans of all kinds. Therefore, since the first of this year the enterprise has seldom had to run around looking for materials, as in past years. But when we asked about product prices the answer was "we are waiting for the prices to be approved." Many types of materials are not supplied, so the enterprise must form alliances with the other units to purchase such products as ball bearings at prices of from 100 to 200 dong per unit, while the stipulated price is 16 dong. It buys electronic condensers at prices of 150 dong to 200 dong each, while the stipulated price is 80 dong. It buys paint at 250 dong to 400 dong per kilo while the stipulated price is 41.6 dong, etc. Assembly costs have also doubled or tripled. Plastic domes for ceiling fans with lights were previously only 6.1 dong each, but the price has risen to 26 dong.

In response to our question, "Are materials supplied in accordance with regulations, i.e. completely, in the correct quantity, of the correct quality, on time, and at the right place?" The director of the Electrical machinery Enterprise Combine smilingly replied, "We are very fortunate if only 70 percent of the norms are fulfilled, and if we are informed that a certain materials has arrived and that we can go to pick it up, we are very happy." Since the first of this year the enterprise has had to pick up goods in Hanoi, Hai Phong, etc. In addition to transportation fee of 1.5 dong per ton per kilometer charged by the materials sector, the enterprise must pay an average of 200 dong per ton for "en route" expenses, cargo handling, etc. That does not include the expense of renting a forklift, at a cost of about 10,000 dong per 100 tons of goods, to use at the supply depot so that the materials may be obtained promptly.

Of course, the enterprise can wait to pick up the goods in Ho Chi Minh City, but the workers would have to be unemployed for several additional months. Because of such complications and expenses, the production cost of an electric fan has increased 30 percent. Many workers at the enterprise have told many "hilarious" stories about the receiving of materials. Ordinarily, the various kinds of steel and silicon sheets are packaged in original crates, with steel reinforced wooden pallets on the tops and bottoms so that they can easily be lifted by forklifts. But at a warehouse of the Municipal Combined Materials Corporation those pallets had been removed. The workers could not use a forklift and had to use manpower to lift each sheet onto the truck. Merely because of pallets worth 100 to 200 dong each, the enterprise incurred many irrational expenses."

Increases in the prices of domestic materials have also concerned the managers of the Soap Powder Corporation of the South. In addition to more than 12,000 tons for which it had to obtain its own materials the corporation (including the Vietnam Soap Enterprise) also produces 4,000 to 5,000 tons of bath soap and laundry soap every year from coconut oil. The state price of oil is 23.5 to 24 dong per kilo, but at present the corporation must buy vegetable oil from the enterprise federation at the price of 32.082 dong per kilo! It went to make a deal directly with the units in Ben Tre Province at the price of one

coconut equaling one kilo of top quality rice. Thus calculated at the average price of 3.6 to 4.2 coconuts equaling one kilo of copra and one kilo of copra having an average oil content of 55 to 57 percent, the price of one kilo of coconut oil corresponded to between seven and eight kilos of top quality rice, the price was even higher than that charged by the vegetable oil sector. Meanwhile, the price set for manufactured soap did not exceed 24 dong per kilo, which was only two-third to three-fourths of the actual production cost. So how how could the corporation produce and do business stably and profitably?

It may be said that it is very difficult to find a material or raw material the market price of which remains stable. Prior to the lunar new year the price of scrap aluminum was 50 dong per kilo, but it has since risen to 120 per kilo. The price of scrap rubber has increased from 65 dong to 70 dong per kilo. The price of glass shards has increased from five dong to six dong per kilo (good quality shards sell for eight dong per kilo). Even a milk can sold as scrap costs three dong.

They Dare Not "Pay The Price" But the Price They Pay Will Be Was Much Greater

Nowadays many directors make the observation that "We are accustomed to living with a bureaucratic-subsidizing mechanism that is heavily characterized by conservatism and sluggishness, so we do not dare 'pay the price' for the innovations and dare not boldly replace policies and systems that are old and outmoded. But the price that must be paid today is much larger than that price that we dare not pay! And it is inevitable that we bear its consequences."

Against the unwholesome background of the domestic and foreign markets, and in view of the situation of the state not providing sufficient materials and raw materials for production, it is difficult to maintain the 40 dong per dollar exchange rate that has been fixed. Furthermore, the established prices of 25 dong per kilo of soap powder, 18 dong per kilo of liquid detergent, 80 dong per kilo of liquid detergent, 80 dong per meter of oxford cloth, 12 dong per can of milk, 35 dong per meter of muslin cloth, 22 dong per kilo of RE sugar, 18 dong per kilo of RS sugar, 112.56 dong per kilo of solid MSG, 93.8 dong per kilo of powdered MSG, 7.5 dong per bottle of beer, etc., are thus only subjective desires which cannot be attained if the situation of materials and raw materials continues to develop as it is now.

The enterprises which import their own materials must, in order to ensure the reproduction of foreign exchange, draft a production cost schedule with two parts: foreign exchange and Vietnamese currency. Foreign exchange is used to import materials and Vietnamese money is used to meet expenses for salaries, depreciation, chemicals, and secondary materials produced locally. For example, one meter of muslin cloth costs 0.47 dollar plus 20 Vietnamese dong, one kilo of soap powder costs 0.50 dollar plus 9 Vietnamese dong etc.

On 9 April 1986 we visited a number of restaurants and the Ben Thanh, An Dong, Binh Tay, Tan Binh, and Ba Chieu markets. Indeed, the prices of industrial goods had risen to levels which were on the average four or five higher than the industrial wholesale price. The price of canned milk varied from 46 to 49

dong per can. The price of Viso soap powder varied from 56 dong to 62 dong per kilo. White refined sugar was 55 or 56 dong per kilo. Powdered MSG was 420 to 440 dong per kilo. Hoc Mon bicycle tires were 75 to 80 dong each. Plastic washbasins with a diameter of 34 centimeters were priced at between 90 and 100 dong each. A sufficient quantity of 1.4 meter-wide polyester cloth to make a pair of pants cost 145 dong. PS toothpaste cost 40 to 42 dong per tube, "50" beer cost 35 to 40 dong per bottle, Bach Tuyet paint cost more than 400 dong per kilo, etc.

With that mode, in name the units still ensure that their prices are equal to or lower than the stipulated prices. In fact at present, if they were told to convert their prices into Vietnamese money they would be very confused and would not know how to set so they would not suffer losses and so that the prices would be accepted by purchasers. Thus in fact those products produced on the unit's initiative produced on the unit's initiative are only used to exchange or to sell for foreign exchange.

That has resulted in the "reluctant." The sundry goods corporations and the service corporations rush to deal in export-import materials, silk thread, construction materials, detergent, agricultural products, etc., in order to create a fund of goods to exchange for items they need. That has resulted in the materials and products taking negative, round-about, bizarre routes. The director of a textile enterprise told me that before a shipment of materials arrived, so that the workers could have work he purchased 15 tons of yarn from a precinct saves corporation. The service corporation had obtained the yarn from a unit of the labor sector, which had obtained it from an organ in Vung Tau. Because the yarn had passed through many intermediaries he had to pay the price of 700 Vietnamese dong per kilo of yarn (in comparison to the exchange price of imported yarn, he had to pay more than 200 Vietnamese dong per dollar). Thus the production cost of a meter of muslin cloth increased to 85 dong.

Ordinarily, materials imported by export-import organs are turned over to units with exchange goods, which in turn turn them over to a unit with other exchange goods. Sometimes materials must pass through several "exchanges" before reaching the production installations. Then the production installations produce products and deliver them to other units in provinces and districts with foreign exchange or materials to exchange, to be used to exchange for peasants' agricultural products. Therefore, it was not surprising when it was said that a meter of cloth, a can of milk, a can of beer, a kilo of soap powder, etc., travels from the production installation in Ho Chi Minh City to Vung Tau, then to a precinct or district in the municipality, then to a district or city in western Nam Bo, then is taken by merchants back to the city. Like a "snowball," which grows bigger and bigger, the prices of such products become increasingly high as they pass along their circuitous routes.

A leadership cadre of a precinct sundry goods store lamented that "We do not want to deal in materials or buy agricultural products for export. But if we do not do so we can have no goods to sell to the people. Something that concerns us is that if we sell goods lower than the foreign exchange replacement ratio of Vietnamese money via agricultural products exports we

suffer a loss, but if we sell them at higher prices we will violate price discipline and create additional difficulties in the lives of people with fixed incomes.

But the very increase of production expenses and product prices, added to the tardiness in resolving problems of the management mechanism, has affected the marketing of products, slowed down the capital turnover cycle, and slowed down production. Millions of meters of muslin cloth and thousands of tons of soap powder still cannot be marketed, and hundreds of tons of soap, many kinds of electric fans, sewing machines, bicycles, etc., are in warehouses awaiting price approvals.

People Who Directly Produce Wealth Do Not Benefit From Price Increases

Anyone who visited the districts outside the city and the provinces in western Nam Bo during the recent Tet period would have noted that the peasants had a much "poorer" Tet, and recently their faces have been much less happy. The prices of agricultural products have increased but the peasants have not benefited much although they have had to pay much more for agricultural production materials and consumer goods.

A leadership cadre in the Municipal Economic Cooperation Board said that the peasants in the villages and districts of Hau Giang sell live hogs to the state at a price of only 14 or 15 dong per kilo, but by the time they reach Can Tho the price increases to 24 or 25 dong, and when they reach the Ho Chi Minh market the price increases to 50 dong. The leadership cadres of the Vegetable Oil Enterprise Federation said that a coconut must pass through 11 intermediate steps between the peasant and processing, and is many times taxed and subjected to state income taxes. A comrade in the sugarcane sector also lamented that "In fact, we have already 'coerced' peasants too much." After 1 October 1985 the state purchase price of a ton of sugarcane increased to 260 dong, while the transportation cost from Tay Ninh to the Binh Duong sugar mill, a distance of about 150 kilometers, is 290 dong per ton of sugarcane. but that price is not yet sufficient, for in order to produce a kilo of RE sugar the sugarcane growers must be paid five to six dong for sugarcane raw materials. Clearly, the middlemen and the merchants have made excessive profits at the expense of the agriculture producers, which has contributed to the increase in price.

Like the peasants, the salaries of workers in the enterprises, except for cost of living supplements, have not changed even though the prices of manufactured goods have increased. The social security, medicine, labor protection, transportation, and other payments remain unchanged. The ratio of labor expenses in the production costs of products. Because of the great increase in prices, the incomes of workers are at present insufficient to reproduce simple labor.

Opinion of People Who Produce Material Wealth

Something that is very encouraging is that recently, in the course of activities and study regarding the resolutions and directives of the central echelon and the municipality, people who directly produce material wealth have

boldly spoken up. We have below presented the principal opinions that were collected regarding industrial production and prices.

First of all, it is necessary to rapidly rectify exporting and importing in the spirit of Resolution 31 of the Political Bureau and to strictly forbid the unauthorized organs to deal in exporting and importing, in order to bring an immediate end to competition in buying and selling, which upsets market prices. The industrial production sectors may only export products they produce, and may only import raw materials, materials, equipment, and machinery relevant to their sector, and may not purchase agricultural products for export or deal in imported materials. It is necessary to zone purchasing areas according to the principle of specialized sector management combined with territorial areas.

Second, the state must have a state purchasing price policy that encourages the growing of industrial crops and especially agricultural products for export. It must stipulate that part of the foreign exchange that is earned be used for investment in export crops and must have a long-range plan for the areas growing industrial raw materials. Outside the products produced with investment capital, in accordance with the price ratios of exchange goods, the peasants are allowed to sell their products at negotiated prices. It may be said that the state has invested little in sugarcane, coconuts, tobacco, pineapples, etc.

Third, the state must have an appropriate policy toward the export goods and the essential goods relevant to production and life, in order to ensure stable price guidelines. The economic units and localities are authorized to set prices for the other goods and for goods produced from materials and raw materials not supplied by the state.

Fourth, it is necessary to improve the system of collecting state taxes according to production cost ratios and taxing a product many times (if that product is the result of the production of many units). It is irrational to place a state tax of 20 percent on MSG and bath soap. The state could abolish the stipulations regarding enterprise wholesale prices and replace the state tax system with other appropriate kind of taxes.

Fifth, the present system of distributing profits based on production cost ratios is no longer appropriate. It must be improved along the lines of encouraging the enterprises to apply technical advances, increasing productivity, economizing, and lowering production costs. There must be no restrictions on setting up production development funds, bonus funds, and welfare funds, in order to rationally improve the lives of people who produce material wealth.

The matter of improving the prices of the materials and products of the industrial production sector is a difficult problem that must be resolved urgently, rationally, and fully, in order to attain the goals of developing production and stabilizing living conditions.

5616

CSO: 4209/576

ECONOMIC PLANNING, TRADE, AND FINANCE

VIETNAM

READER COMPLAINS ABOUT CONSIGNMENT SALES STALL

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 24 Apr 86 p 2

[Letters From Readers column: "Consignment Stall Sells Goods Arbitrarily"]

[Text] The "consignment" stall in the state commercial store in my subward attracts a rather large number of customers, for there are found there many new and scarce products which are sold there on a consignment basis by families which have no need for them. But the method of selling goods there is still arbitrary and does not yet conform to the system of socialist commerce.

Some sales clerks who accept watches from many families of cadres and workers post rather high prices, with the goal of earning profits of 150 to 200 dong per watch. Meanwhile, watches sent there by "factions" are sold at lower prices and at a lower profit level. Within only a few days dozens of watches belonging to the "factions" sell briskly and the sales clerks also "take their cut." As for the watches of our families, the store sets prices too high so they do not sell well, but lay there unsold for long periods of time.

Le Van Lang
(Hai Phong)

5616
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AGRICULTURE

VIETNAM

INCREASED PURCHASING OF FARM PRODUCTS PER CONTRACT URGED

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 24 Apr 86 p 1

[Editorial: "Expand the State Purchasing of Agricultural Products in Accordance With Economic Contracts"]

[Text] An extremely important and urgent matter at present is that on the basis of developing production our state has applied resolute, comprehensive measures and has the policy of expanding the circulation of goods and controlling many goods by means of state purchasing. In order to increasingly concentrate the sources of agricultural products in the hands of the state. In addition to collecting the full amounts of in-kind agricultural taxes and recovering old debts in kind, it is necessary to expand state purchasing in accordance with two-way economic contracts signed with the production units at the beginning of the production season. By means of such purchasing many provinces, such as Hai Hung, Nghe Tinh, Thanh Hoa, Thai Binh, Hau Giang, Nghia Binh, Dong Nai, etc., have controlled larger quantities of agricultural products than at the same time last year, stimulated the development of production, contributed to strengthening the socialist commercial forces, and struggled to stabilize prices and the market.

The scope of goods purchased by the state in accordance with two-way contracts include rice, corn, dry manioc, export agricultural products, the principal types of agricultural materials used as industrial raw materials, animal husbandry products, primarily pork, and vegetables and fruit in the food-growing belts around the municipalities and industrial zones.

The experiences of localities which have begun to do a good job of purchasing in accordance with two-way contracts is going all-out to supply to producers, in accordance with contracts, means of production, construction materials, technical services, the essential consumer goods, and part of their monetary capital, according to the legitimate and rational requirements of the producers and the actual capabilities of the state. The materials and goods covered by two-way contracts signed with the rural collective production organizations in a number of localities are balanced at the basic units, in the provinces and districts, combined with those sent down by the central level. The capabilities of the localities to set up materials and goods funds at the local level by stepping up production and expanding economic alliance and joint production relations are still very great. Doing a good job of

resolving the problem of materials and goods is a basic condition for concentrating agricultural products in the hands of the state and restricting to the lowest possible level the cash purchasing of agricultural products and foodstuffs. When they have materials and goods the provinces, districts, and villages have the means for supplying and distributing them to producers who truly need them, and for avoiding the situation of purchasing and reselling so that they fall into the hands of the private merchants or speculators. The exchange of products between the state and the peasant must be centralized and in accordance with unified prices and price ratios. It is necessary to completely bring to an end the situation of many sectors with goods (such as the home trade, foreign trade, grain, and other sectors) exchanging them with peasants in the same area, and of many echelon with goods exchanging them in accordance with price ratios and prices that are not uniform. It is extremely necessary to closely manage the distribution and use of materials and goods set aside for state purchasing in accordance with two-way contracts, and instances of using such materials and goods for other things, especially selling them to earn a profit because of price disparities, must be resolutely stopped and dealt with in a timely manner. It is necessary to do a good job of organizing state purchasing that is concentrated in a few organs, to deliver materials directly to the producers, and avoid having to pass through many rungs and many unnecessary intermediate steps, which causes great waste of materials and goods, increases transportation expenses, and causes seasonal schedules and production plans not to be met.

To do a good job of purchasing agricultural products in accordance with two-way contracts is to ensure that buying and selling are tied together and to create conditions for the state to firmly grasp the production capabilities and needs, on the basis of which to promptly meet the needs for materials, goods, and services for production, guide the producers in using materials in accordance with norms, and stimulating the planned development of production, while also being properly concerned for the workers' living conditions. That is also one way to contribute importantly to stabilizing prices and market management.

5616

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AGRICULTURE

VIETNAM

DONG NAI CREATES SPECIALIZED COFFEE AREA

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 24 Apr 86 pp 1, 4

[VNA News Release: "Dong Nai Creates 30,000-Hectare Specialized Coffee Area"]

[Text] In Dong Nai coffee is regarded as the main crop in the group of long-range industrial crops. There are nearly 10,000 hectares of coffee, of which 6,000 hectares are producing harvests. Many difficulties are still being encountered in controlling the coffee output. A number of sectors (including those with no commercial function) and the districts and villages in the province compete in buying and selling. A number of other provinces and municipalities also pool their money and goods to buy up the coffee and push prices up, but still cannot buy it. A number of cadres have abused their authority by dealing in coffee.

The province has adopted the policy of creating a 30,000-hectare specialized coffee-growing area between 1985 and 1990. The red basaltic soil, and yellow-brown reddish-brown soil over basaltic rock in the districts of Xuan Loc, Chau Thanh, Thong Nhat, Tan Phu, etc., are very suitable for coffee. During the next 5 years the coffee-growing area will double. The province plans to plant 5,000 hectares every year during the first 3 years. In order to expand its coffee area, the province has adopted the policy of collecting debts over a 3-year period: during the first year, 20 percent, and 40 percent in the second and third years. The amount of capital is very large but is highly effective. Adopting the slogan of "the state and the people working together," to ensure that the coffee area attains results the province is investing a large part of the capital in water conservancy and in fertilizer of all kinds to help the basic units expand the coffee-growing area. With regard to the form of production organization, in the immediate future the production collectives and cooperatives will be responsible for coffee production and commerce. The collectives will contract to collective and production members all aspects, from growing and tending to harvesting and delivering products. The district echelon will provide direct guidance. The provincial coffee corporation is responsible for growing coffee, supplying seedlings, and providing technical guidance. The bank will invest directly in the collectives and cooperatives, without working through intermediaries. With regard to the old coffee-growing area, other specialized corporations will be assigned responsibility for implementing two-way contracts by providing production materials (fertilizer

and fuel for irrigation) in advance and collecting products at the end of the year, thus ending the situation of competition in buying and selling that agricultural product on the provincial market and ensuring that the province controls that product, so that it can both fulfill its obligation of turning over coffee to the central echelon and have coffee to export and form alliances with other localities. The province authorizes the families, organs, and units to invest capital and labor and use land to grow coffee (and pepper) for about 20 years, and encourages all units and families to fully utilize residential land and land around their houses to grow coffee and pepper. The state will supply them materials and fertilizer and collect their products, according to contracts.

5616

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AGRICULTURE

VIETNAM

DOAN KET STATE FARM CONTRACTS COFFEE PRODUCTION

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 5 May 86 p 2

[Article by Van Uong: "Doan Ket State Farm Contracts Output to Workers; Fresh Coffee Bean Output Increases by More Than 350 Tons"]

[Text] The Doan Ket state farm (Krong Buc, Dao Lac), which has 1,170 cadres and workers, manages 705.9 hectares of coffee and 173 hectares of rubber. In recent years its coffee and rubber production has tended to decline. During the 1984-1985 season the state farm harvested 1,100 tons of fresh coffee berries. According to the ordinary conversion rate, 1,100 tons of fresh coffee berries will provide about 220 tons of coffee beans, but in fact only 200 tons were obtained. During the 1984-1985 coffee season the Doan Ket state farm suffered a loss of nearly 2 million dong. The principal reason was that when harvesting the workers pursued output (they stripped the trees instead of picking the berries), and harvested both ripe and green berries. Because a large area could not be protected, the state farm had to pick the berries while they were still green. Furthermore, part of the area had to be "glean" harvested or could not be harvested because the production protection work was not yet good. During the harvest the state farms coffee groves were stripped clean, which affected yields during the following season.

The output of latex was no better: 108 hectares of commercial rubber trees produced only 90 tons of dry latex and 13 tons of mixed latex. The decline in production was the reason for the development of negative phenomena.

After the 1984-1985 coffee harvest the state farm's party committee launched many activity campaigns, improved the party organizational apparatus, and improved the quality and ability of the party members. The state farm's board of directors also had the positive factor of daring to think and do. After categorizing more than 200 hectares of commercial coffee the state farm selected 12 hectares in an area near the people that was difficult to protect and had one of the lowest yields. The state farm contracted out the norm of eight tons of coffee beans. Then hillside coffee lots which were being overrun by cogon grass and coffee areas that were intermingled with those of the people, provided no harvest during the previous season, and were in danger of being eliminated were also contracted out to state farm workers. People accepting the contracting were responsible for tending and protecting the coffee trees, applying intensive cultivation measures, and increasing yields.

If they surpassed the contracted-out norm the state farm purchased their output at negotiated prices. The state farm was responsible for supplying fertilizer, for irrigating in according with technical rules, etc. Every month, after inspecting and testing their output the state farm makes salary and grain payments to the people accepting contracting out.

From trial contracting and the contracting of individual plots, the state farm gradually expanded the contracting form throughout the state farm, contracted out the entire coffee area in the commercial phase, and advanced toward contracting out and planting new trees. In 1985 the contracted-out area increased to 500 hectares. The method of resolution of overcoming the situation of operating at a deficit, as mentioned above, was supported by many cadres, party members, and workers, but there were also a considerable number of people who were opposed and thought that such contracting-out would "break up" the state farm, was not taking the workers into consideration, etc. But confident in the state farm's correct working method, which is in accord with its actual situation, the party members and leadership board of the state farm are continuing to guide, maintain, and develop the contracting out of final output to workers not only with regard to coffee but also with regard to rubber and the other sectors and trades.

A result of the 1985-1986 coffee season was that the commercial coffee area was well protected. The coffee was picked when it was ripe, was harvested in many stages, and was harvested completely. Its 194.7 hectares of commercial coffee (20 hectares less than the 1984-1985 season because of tree felling) yielded 1,350 tons of fresh coffee berries and an estimated coffee bean yield of 280 to 300 tons. With regard to the quality of the coffee, about 10 percent was special quality, 40 percent was first quality, 30 percent was second quality, and 20 percent was third quality. All of the coffee produced in excess of the contracted norm was sold to the state farm at negotiated prices. In addition to applying the contracting form, the state farm boldly reorganized its production, reduced its indirect labor, paid attention to the lives of the workers and the emulation movements of the Youth Union, and was concerned with day-care centers, schools, etc. With the form of contracting output the workers clearly realize their benefit, so they work voluntarily, make good use of time, and use secondary family labor in production. And because of contracting the movement to compete in labor and in improving productivity, quality, and effectiveness is quite seething, many new factors have appeared, and the negative phenomena have declined.

However, problems remain in the state farm's contracting method which must be promptly overcome. The contract stipulation that contractees will receive 100 percent of the value of output beyond the norm does not reflect the actual production situation. Such production is due not only to the direct labor invested during the season but also to past labor and to other component factors. That means that it is necessary to recalculate the benefit of people who surpass the contracted norm. Furthermore, there are other incorrect points with regard to contracted norms which must be studied and adjusted so that they can be rational.

The results of the state farm's first harvest under the product contracting system has caused everyone to be enthusiastic. As of 19 February the state farm had harvested 1,450 tons of fresh coffee berries and has prospects of attaining 1,500 tons by the harvest. Even more encouraging, in the contracting process the state farm has noted shortcomings and has promptly taken steps to correct them.

AGRICULTURE

VIETNAM

LAM DONG EMPHASIZES TEA EXPORTING FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 May 86 p 2

[Article by Van Du: "Tea--a Leading Export of Lam Dong"]

[Text] Prior to the revolution, the tea area in Lam Dong was largely (more than 2,000 hectares) concentrated in the plantations of the bourgeoisie. After we took power we nationalized about 1,300 hectares. At that time the total tea area in the province amounted to about 5,000 hectares, 3,767 of which were in Bao Loc. Since then the Lam Dong tea sector has continually advanced, transformed, and built, and has effectively developed its strength, regarding tea as a leading economic sector in the province.

The land and climate of Lam Dong are very suitable for the year-round development of tea.

Despite problems and difficulties, during the past 10 years the people of Lam Dong have been proud of the province's results in transforming, building, and developing tea growing and processing. Fresh tea buds total 145,035 tons, of which the state sector has accounted for 83,316 tons. Processed tea totals 33,077 tons, of which 21,185 tons, more than half of which has been black tea, has been exported. In 1976 only 1,931 tons of tea were exported but in 1985 2,560 tons were exported. By means of exports (an average of more than 2,000 tons a year), Lam Dong has imported equipment, machinery, materials fuel, and testing equipment, in order to equip, and expand the production of, the tea trade, with its increasingly greater requirements. At present the sector is urgently completing a project to expand the 19-5 and 1-5 tea factories, which will have complete production lines and other equipment, such as a humidity measuring machine and CTC cutting machines. Once those factories are in operation the sector's total capacity (six factories) will be nearly 200 tons of fresh tea buds per day.

Another strength of Lam Dong is black CTC tea for export, which in 1985 increased by 120 tons over the previous year, thus increasing the value of the commodity output. In coming years attention will be paid to fully developing that product. Since 1981 tea-growing has developed rather rapidly in Lam Dong. The people of Lam Dong grow tea everywhere: on hillsides, in valleys,

in gardens, around fences, etc. In Bao Loc alone, since 1981 the people have planted more than 1,600 hectares and in the 1984-1985 period the state tea sector in the province planted 276 hectares.

In 1986 the Lam Dong tea sector plans to produce 18,000 tons of fresh tea buds, of which 8,300 tons will be purchased from the people, in order to process 3,800 tons of products and set aside 2,200 tons for export.

In the immediate future, the sector will concentrate on investing in the raw materials area. With the slogan "The state and the people work together," it will cooperate closely with the cooperatives and production collectives in planting additional areas and expanding the specialized tea-growing area. In addition to expanding the 2-9 and 28-3 factories the sector will concentrate investment on equipment and machinery, and will change the Cau Dat tea factory over to producing black CTC tea.

5616

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30 June 1986

AGRICULTURE

VIETNAM

READERS COMPLAIN ABOUT CONTRACTED NORMS, RETIREMENT PAY

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 23 May 86 p 2

[Letters From Readers column: "Assigning of Contracted Norms Not Yet Stable; Deductions From Salaries of Retired People"]

[Text] At the Cao Ia, Ngoc Chau, and Ngoc Van cooperatives in Tan Yen District there are many irrationalities in assigning norms regarding short-term crops and long-term industrial crops.

With regard to tobacco, the cooperative makes the contracting families responsible for nearly all field work. Because they cannot be helped by the cooperatives, many families which are short of capital and labor cannot do their planting on time and their harvests fall short. The cooperatives are not concerned with those difficulties but force the families to turn over products to them in accordance with the contracted norm. Anyone who does not turn over the full amount is recorded as owing a debt and is fined. Those who surpass the contracted norm must sell all of their tobacco to the state organ, but not at negotiated prices. That contracting method does not motivate and encourage cooperative members to intensively cultivate and increase the yields of short-term industrial crops.

Better results can be attained in contracting tobacco if the cooperatives supply seeds, fertilizer, insecticides, and coal to cure the tobacco, ensures draft power and irrigation water on a stable area, and stabilizes the contracted output norm until the production factors change.

With regard to such long-term industrial crops as tea and tung nuts, the cooperatives should also maintain stable contracted norms based on the growth cycles of each type of crop. Tea plants planted by the branch method and well tended can be harvested for the first time only after 2 or 3 years. Only then should the contracted norm be determined, based on the quality of land and the expenditures per lot. Families are allowed to keep their output beyond the contracted norm, and to sell them at negotiated prices to state commerce. Only that can truly encourage good tending in order to attain increasingly higher yields and quality.

KUONG GIANG
(Ha Bac)

Every time people go to receive salaries or other allowances for retired state workers and civil servants the Retirement Liaison Committee of village T.M. in Tu Lien District, Hanoi, arbitrarily deducts 5 to 10 dong. That money is used as partial reimbursement for people who pay the salaries!

Such deductions from the salaries of retired workers are contrary to the regulations and policies and the that illegal fund has existed for years.

DO THE
(Hanoi)

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HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

VIETNAM

EDITORIAL URGES EXPANDING SMALL-SCALE HYDROPOWER NETWORK

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Apr 86 p 1

[Editorial: "Developing Small-Scale Hydroelectric Power"]

[Text] Our country's hydropower resource is extremely abundant. Along with building the large Hoa Binh and Tri An hydroelectric power plants, to accelerate hydropower production with medium, small, and extremely small plants will bring about great benefits in all economic and sociopolitical fields.

Small-scale hydropower production has been developed in many localities like Quang Nam-Da Nang, Cao Bang, Hoang Lien Son, Military Region 1, and Binh Tri Thien and in such sectors as agriculture, forestry, water conservancy, food industry, and so on. From 1981 to 1985, the country as a whole completed the restoration of and built anew 201 small hydroelectric power stations. Many localities have completed maps that determine the hydropower potential and pinpoint suitable locations where it is possible to build new stations early; many sectors and localities have set forth economic and technical arguments for the construction of nearly 70 stations, each having a capacity of 200 kilowatts or more. The prospects for the next 5 years point to the existence of nearly 320 additional hydroelectric power stations operating with capacities several times greater than those of the existing stations.

The results obtained in the movement for development of small-scale hydropower in the localities where conditions are favorable prove that all echelons and sectors are dynamic and creative, have a sense of self-reliance, and aim at getting on-the-spot energy by producing hydroelectricity at the rate of from a few to thousands of kilowatts. The role of small-scale hydropower production, as an immediate possibility, is to satisfy the local need for electrification. The highlands and the units and installations that are far away from the national power network feel an even greater need for fast development of small-scale hydropower production and for linking small hydropower stations into hydropower clusters in different regions, state farms, state forests, new economic zones, and so on.

Although small-scale hydropower production accounts for a very small percentage of the country's total power production, it has brought about very noteworthy benefits and results in favor of local economic, political, social,

national defense, and security activities, mostly in remote and isolated areas. Sectors and localities have developed many ways to develop hydropower with great economic results and to quickly put it to use in the spirit of abolishing bureaucratic centralism and state subsidies, developing their combined strength and local potential, and properly carrying out the motto, "The state and people, central and local administrations, provinces and districts, and districts and villages and cooperatives produce small-scale hydropower together." Another important achievement in the development of small-scale hydropower is the fact that the machine industry, both central and local, has reached the capability of making domestic equipment and parts for medium and small hydroelectric power plants and has directly helped to restore, build, and install many small hydropower stations from the North to the South.

In the development of small-scale hydropower, planning remains uncoordinated as sectors and localities pursue their own interests and fail to follow any regional plans, nor to coordinate sources and network, which leads to waste in both construction and use of power--some localities do not have enough power while others produce too much of it. In many cases, surveying, planning, and executing construction plans are not done carefully and meticulously enough, which requires changing plans, doing work over and over again, prolonging the work, and wasteful expending of labor, materials, and raw materials. The quality of some projects and pieces of equipment is not good enough as some power stations have broken down soon after they began to operate. Management remains weak and poor. The localities, sectors, installations, and units that are in the areas where the difference of river and stream water levels is great enough to run the pieces of machinery must have plans for building medium, small, and extremely small hydropower stations. The localities that are producing power with diesel generators, if conditions are favorable, must soon switch to using hydropower, particularly in the case of towns and villages in the highlands. The production installations that process agricultural, forest, and marine products must pay more attention to exploiting their own hydropower resource. Encourage and help villages and families that are near rivers and streams to build hydroelectric power stations producing 1-2 kilowatts of electricity for lighting purposes and making handicraft products. The manufacturing of various kinds of hydroelectrical equipment, such as turbines, generators, and parts, must be divided early and properly between the central and local machine industries.

Now or in the long term we are still unable to satisfy all of our energy needs for our socioeconomic development. To develop small-scale hydropower production is necessary and brings about many realistic benefits and results.

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HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

VIETNAM

POWER CORPORATION IMPROVES MANAGEMENT, EXPANDS NETWORK

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 17 Apr 86 p 2

[Article by Pham Thanh and Tran Kham: "Power Line and Station Construction and Installation Corporation 2 (Ministry of Power) Improves Management, Builds Many High-Tension Power Line Networks"]

[Text] In the face of the need to expand power line networks in proportion to power sources, the Power Line and Station Construction and Installation Corporation 2 of the Ministry of Power in recent years completed the construction of many high-tension power lines in Nam Bo provinces. This has been one of the achievements that show the superior strength of socialism.

In the past, there had been very few high-tension power line networks in the South, mainly in the area of Saigon and its surroundings and in military base complexes, and almost none in the provinces, particularly in the Mekong delta. Following the total liberation of the South, to build new high-tension power lines and large transformer stations having capacities of 110 kilowatts or more became an urgent requirement in the efforts to develop the economy and to improve the standard of living. The corporation, with its great efforts, completed many projects of high quality. Its units, by adhering to construction features, devised many effective working methods. The construction and installation of power lines had to be carried on over long distances without any walls and fences to provide covering and required a lot of labor and hard work, with a combination in various forms of manual labor and machinery, as well as mobility and scattering of labor over various terrains having different weather conditions. The nature of its work required making the management of labor conform with different projects in different locations and at different times in order both to ensure concentrated and unified leadership and to develop the dynamic and creative qualities of all cadres, workers, and production teams and units. In the course of renewing its management, the corporation adopted early the system of paying wages on the basis of unit prices totally assigned to construction and installation units.

After having made many steps in which it learned from experiences, the corporation succeeded in perfecting the unit prices for total assignment of projects and finished products. These are the "total force" unit prices which cover wages, bonuses, expenses being related to wages like compensations for

climbing high grounds, diving in deep water, and working in sunny, hot, and harmful environment, and awarding of available material resources; at the same time, it also assigns the expenses involving labor hired from outside, tools used in construction, purchases of cheap things that quickly wear out, additional expenses needed while carrying out the work, and costs of building of temporary storehouses, sheds, and living quarters. The volume of materials necessary for a project is also assigned. The units that accept the assignments will sign contracts for using vehicles and machinery with the motorized transportation units and create favorable conditions for these units to do economic accounting, while ceasing to use their vehicles and machinery in construction projects at any prices. The measure that was taken--to pay wages with unit prices that include all items assigned--not only has boosted the volume of construction and installation by 8-10 times compared to paying daily wages (while the number of workers did not increase) but also has led to labor self-consciousness, a sense of thrift, and voluntary protection of materials, as well as to orderly management, directly and indirectly, in production units.

The effectiveness of this way of assigning work to cover everything has helped to accelerate the construction of the 181-kilometer Thu Duc-Can Tho 230-kilovolt power line, along with the assembly and installation of the Tra Noc 230/115/66-kilovolt transformer station, the backbone of the power network in the Mekong delta.

In addition to the construction of the above-mentioned power line, the project teams also quickly completed the construction of four 110-kilovolt lines--Can Tho-Soc Trang, Vinh Long-Tra Vinh, Rach Gia-Kien Luong, and Bien Hoa-Vung Tau--totaling 273 kilometers in length and of 23 kilometers of the Bien Hoa-Tri An 220-kilovolt line. Recently the corporation has started the construction of the Tri An-Hoc Mon 220-kilovolt line in order to accommodate the Tri An hydropower production by the end of 1987.

On the Bien Hoa-Tri An power line, project unit 2 developed the idea of using bamboo bridges along with mechanized vehicles to erect metal posts and thus was able to shorten the time needed to erect a post from 4 to 1.5 days.

In order to let the construction and installation units work on their own initiative, the corporation adopted the system of decentralized management by using the "corporation-units" pattern, doing away with the intermediate level, or enterprises, and ensuring direct supervision by the corporation director over its units. Along with decentralizing its management, it rearranged the work force in offices, professional sections, and production teams and units, and selected the persons who were capable and had a good sense of responsibility and good health to be in charge of work sites.

The corporation as a whole carried out economic accounting in all its construction-installation and secondary production units as it considered it the key to entering a new period in which work would be done in the direction of economic accounting and the socialist way of doing business. Because it fully recognized that every unit that took part in building the power network was a main-force unit and that all developments and expenses originating from this unit would directly affect the results of the corporation's production

and business, the construction-installation units have been reorganized to become streamlined, light, and well-trained; norms have been set anew for labor and the use of materials and raw materials, which would serve as a basis for setting unit prices in making all-inclusive assignments. On the part of the corporation, it tried to ensure complying with contracts by supplying materials, raw materials, and other things necessary for carrying out the construction project. However, the use of materials had to satisfy the norms and quality standards that have been set for a project. To surpass them because of waste would result in making reimbursements to the corporation; on the other hand, if materials were not lost and wasted because of good initiatives, technical improvement, savings in the use of materials, or good storage that would prevent any losses, the corporation would pay an amount of cash equivalent to the value of the materials saved, with the rest of the material resources being put under its management. With such a mechanism, construction-installation units actively assign parts of the work to production teams and calculate by themselves the total expenses at the time of completion, thus properly ensuring the close link between quality of labor and quality of the project, with every unit and every worker being responsible till the end for the quality of the work he has done.

A valuable experience of the Power Line and Station Construction and Installation Corporation 2 was the fact that it provided by itself some materials and raw materials by setting up an enterprise making electrical supports and opening quarries, and achieved economic integration with the locality in the construction and protection of construction projects. The localities where the power line ran through all coordinated their activities with the corporation to ensure construction and protection. For instance, about the construction of the Can Tho-Soc Trang 110-kilovolt power line, although the corporation had encountered very many difficulties in connection with procedures, materials, and capital, the project moved on at the right pace because Hau Giang Province actively contributed labor, materials (cement, gasoline, and oil), and 2 million dong of capital and because Chau Thanh and Phung Hiep Districts and the City of Soc Trang considered the project their own and wholeheartedly assisted the construction-installation units.

Under the terms of assignment contracts, the localities organized on-the-spot labor doing manual work, such as digging foundation, carrying materials from the roadway to the location of posts, erecting sheds and living quarters, and so on. This way of doing the work did not require any increase of staff while raising by 2-3 times the volume of foundation digging and concrete pouring and leaving the technical workers free to concentrate on the work that would require greater technical skills.

The progress of the Power Line and Station Construction and Installation Corporation 2 has been due to the fact that it always assumed the responsibility for providing more power for production and daily life and, on that basis, adopted many forms of management and combined measures to accelerate the pace of construction of the high-tension line network in Nam Bo provinces.

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HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

VIETNAM

NEW UNDERGROUND COAL MINE OPENS AT TAN LAP

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 3 May 86 pp 1, 4

[Article: "New Tan Lap Coal Mine Opened"]

[Text] After 8 months of urgent work, essentially completing the warehouse, workshop, and housing area surfaces, receiving 12,000 tons of materials and equipment, digging 2,180 additional meters of mine shafts, installing a scraper conveyor, a troughed belt conveyor, and rail systems to transport the coal from the shaft, the production preparation committee of the new Tan Lap coal mine turned over the mine so that it could begin production. It is a large underground mine in which 185 million dong were invested and which has a capacity of 300,000 tons of coal a year. It was designed and built by a number of units of the Ministry of Mines and Coal. The mine is situated in a hilly area south of Khe Hum and next to the Ha Tu open-pit mine in Quang Ninh. The mine, which has been carefully surveyed and explored, has reserves of about 10 million tons, not counting the coal at the various depth. Although 1986 is the first year it received a plan from the Hon Gai Coal Enterprise Federation, the mine is going out to rationalize its organization, has assigned 675 workers (including 300 miners) to five department, and has formed guidance and professional bureaus and sections that are truly streamlined, and has applied the system of paying salaries based on final output in all aspects. The mine is perfecting the technical factors of two work faces, taking the initiative in producing a vibrating coal grading shoot, and taking positive steps to eliminate soil and rock beginning with the conveyor belt phase in order to improve the quality of coal. In April the Tan Lap mine mined 5,000 tons of commercial grade coal and delivered it to the Cot 5 port. The mine is improving its method of using electricity by replacing six kilovolt lines with three kilovolt lines in order to send coal tractors into the galleries and concentrating on the initial blasting of work face 3+1 in order to stabilize the daily mining schedule, and is endeavoring to overcome all obstacles of the rainy season to, during the second quarter, produce 12,000 tons of coal and dig 360 meters of stand-by shafts, in order to contribute to meeting the coal needs of the national economic sectors in our country.

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HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

VIETNAM

READER COMMENTS ON QUANG NINH COAL MANAGEMENT

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 20 May 86 p 2

[Letters From Readers column: "Attention Should Be Paid To Managing Natural Resources in Quang Ninh Coal Mining Area"]

[Text] A problem very worthy of concern which no organ has effectively resolved is the problem of tightly managing the natural resources of the Quang Ninh coal area.

In addition to the sectors and units fully qualified legally to mine coal, the agricultural cooperatives, handicraft cooperatives, and some enterprises in the "secondary" coal production sector organize coal mining that is not in accordance with regulations. All along the coal belt from Dong Trieu to Mong Duong people take coal improperly. In the future, the fact that coal has been scraped from the coal seam surfaces will create difficulties for technical mining management.

Because exploitation has been haphazard, rules and regulations have not been observed (the only goal as been to obtain much coal) and fatal accidents have been caused. In such districts and cities as Dong Trieu, Uong Bi, Hon Gai, and Cam Pha dozens of tunnel collapses have been caused by arbitrary coal mining by private individuals.

That causes much short-range and long-range harm. I hope that the competent organ will investigate and resolve that problem.

Phan Quang Lien
(Quang Ninh)

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HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

VIETNAM

HA TUYEN CEMENT MILL REORGANIZES PRODUCTION

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 4 May 86 p 2

[Article: "Ha Tuyen Cement Mill Reorganizes Production, Increases Output, Improves Quality, and Lowers Production Costs"]

[Text] By mid-April the Ha Tuyen Cement Mill had produced 2,500 tons of cement, 41.7 percent of the annual plan norm. That result was attained because since the beginning of the year the enterprise has reorganized production in all departments and professional offices and sections. The cement department, the enterprise's main department, reduced its work force by 14 percent, 8 to 10 workers per production shift, but labor productivity increased from 10 to 12 tons of cement per shift to 14 to 15 tons. Labor was also rationally reorganized and stabilized and the contracted norm was reduced from four people per 1,000 cubic meters of rock a year to three people. During the first quarter the department produced 3,750 cubic meters of rock, 30 percent of the annual plan norm.

Although it is a local enterprise, the quality of the Ha Tuyen mill's cement did not remain at the P300 level. The quality of many batches of cement was even higher. In 1986 the mill plans to lower production costs by 15.5 percent. During the first 3 months of the year, due to the lowering of the coal use norm, the rational, safe, transportation of coal, and the full utilization of the various kinds of cement packaging bags, the enterprise saved 155,000 dong. By reducing such expenses production costs were lowered by 31.7 percent in comparison to 1985.

5616

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HEAVY INDUSTRY AND CONSTRUCTION

VIETNAM

WHITE CEMENT PLANT BEGINS OPERATIONS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 12 May 86 p 1

[Article: "White Cement Production Plant Brought Into Use"]

[Text] Construction Materials and Construction General Corporation No 2 of the Ministry of Home Trade recently brought into use a white cement production plant with a capacity of 1.5 tons a day to meet the needs for raw materials to produce ornamental bricks, whet stones, pumice stone, and granito rock.

The white cement produced by that plant meets the P300 durability standard and its degree of whiteness is 65 percent. The plant's production line is relatively complete and convenient (it uses vertical coal-fired kilns), so the quality of its white cement is stable.

The general corporation has also produced additional low-grade black cement; has produced a hot-rolling machine with a capacity of 300 tons per year in order to fully utilize scrap steel by forming it into "Phi 8" steel; built a welding rod department with a capacity of 300 kilograms per shift; built four barges with carrying capacities of 250 tons each; and expanded the Duc Hoa baked clay brick and tile production installation in Long An in preparing to produce earthenware, porcelain, and glazed bricks.

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10 June 1986

LIGHT INDUSTRY

VIETNAM

NHAN DAN EDITORIAL CALLS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HANDICRAFTS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 20 May 86 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Exploit All Capabilities of Small Industry and Handicrafts"]

[Text] Small industry and handicrafts production plays a very important and long-range role in our country's economy. That economic sector is providing society with more than half of the consumer goods produced in our country and employs nearly 1.6 million workers. The small industry-handicrafts sector is manifesting consciousness of self-reliance, bravely overcoming many difficulties and challenges, and going all-out to maintain and develop production. Developing all existing and potential capabilities of small industry and handicrafts in production, especially in processing agricultural products, forestry products, and aquatic products, and in producing consumer goods and export goods is a mission of great significance.

Along those lines, the small industry-handicrafts sector has launched a campaign to produce many new products, in which the first national small industry-handicrafts traditional skills competition was a useful, practical activity. A large number of production installations, many craftsmen and skilled workers, and many illustrative artists and scientific-technical workers participated and produced more than 6,000 new products, which proved the great capabilities of small industry-handicrafts production and the traditional strengths of the area and village trades and fine creative talents.

The contributions of the small industry-handicrafts sector to the national economy are great and precious. But the fact that the management mechanism regarding the small industry-handicrafts sector has not been renovated has limited the development of the potential of the existing labor, trades, and raw material sources in Vietnam in order to produce consumer and export goods. The concern of the echelons and sectors for small industry and handicrafts has not been adequate, which has prevented the production results of the small industry-handicrafts sector from corresponding to its capabilities. Its material-technical bases are still small, poor, and backward; labor productivity is still low; production costs are high; and the quality of many products is not yet high. The state does not yet have an appropriate management mechanism to fully develop the capabilities and guide the

activities of that production sector into the socialist orbit. The parts of a number of policies regarding prices, taxes, credit, investment, etc., which are no longer appropriate to the new situation have not been supplemented and amended.

The (draft) resolution of the Political Bureau on ensuring the right of autonomy of the local economic units in production and commerce points out the direction for ensuring the right of autonomy of the small industry-handicrafts cooperatives in production and commerce. It is a source of inspiration for that collective economic sector.

The cooperatives have many rights and at the same time have great responsibilities. That is a matter of taking the initiative in exploiting all capabilities in order to develop production along the lines of "small industry having to be modern and handicrafts having to be skilled."

In order to contribute positively to stabilizing the economic-social situation and implement Resolution 8 of the Party Central Committee, the small industry-handicrafts sector must reorganize production, which is tied in with the requirement of consolidating and perfecting socialist production relations in each basic unit and rapidly finding all measures to produce many commodity products with high productivity, quality, and effectiveness. The continuation of the emulation movement to "improve the quality of products, create new items, and develop many new products," and the "spring traditional skills competition" in the localities will encourage the small industry-handicrafts cooperative members to work creatively and develop production, and thereby uncover and select artists and skilled workers, maintain the traditional sectors and trades, and produce new consumer goods and export goods with high artistic and economic value.

It is necessary to rapidly introduce scientific-technical advances into production, draft a research program, and systematically organize technical and artistic management from the upper-echelon management organs down to the basic levels, in order to improve the quality of small industry-handicraft products. In addition to amending the contracting-out amending the contracting-out and state purchasing modes, there must be a policy to suitably compensate craftsmen and skilled workers and a policy to protect the copyrighting of new works and products. Bringing additional well-educated workers into the production installations, continually training workers and improving their trade skills, quickly uncovering and cultivating young craftsmen, endeavoring to study craftsmen rich in experience, and being concerned with the material and cultural lives of workers are tasks which must receive constant attention.

With the guidance and assistance of the echelons and sectors, by developing the collective mastership spirit and enthusiasm of cooperative members in production labor the small industry-handicrafts sector is certain to develop its great capabilities, produce many products for society, and achieve many outstanding accomplishments to celebrate the Sixth Party Congress.

5616
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LIGHT INDUSTRY

VIETNAM

HO CHI MINH CITY COOPERATIVE PRODUCES NEW GLASS PRODUCT

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 20 May 86 p 1

[Article: "Ho Chi Minh City Cooperative Produces 'accopan' Glass Products From Domestic Raw Materials"]

[Text] The Ngoc Thang chemical cooperative in Binh Thanh District, Ho Chi Minh City, has successfully produced such 'accopan' glass products as opaque milk-white bowls, and pink, white, and light blue tea cups, from Cam Ranh and Ba Ria sand.

With the assistance of the Vinaglaz Glass Factory of the Ministry of Building in building a kiln, the Ngoc Thang cooperative melted dozens of batches of glass from these types of sand and produced effectively. After the two types of sand were mixed with soda and a number of other chemicals, the raw materials were melted in the kiln at a temperature of 1,400 degrees to produce molten glass, which were then formed by machine. Then the mouths of the products were opened, smoothed, and polished, and then inspected.

The "accopan" glass products of the Ngoc Thang cooperative are regarded as important consumer products of Binh Tri Thanh District.

Silicate is also an important product (in addition to "accopan" glass) of the Ngoc Thang cooperative, which accounts for 80 percent of the total value of the city's production of that product. In 1986 Ngoc Thang will produce 2,600 tons of silicate to supply to the Soap Powder Corporation of the South so that it can produce all kinds of soap, to the Hong Gam Textile Combine so that it can bleach and starch cloth, and to the Thu Duc and Tan Mai paper mills so that they can dry paper rolls.

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30 June 1986

LABOR

VIETNAM

HANOI ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS REDUCE INDIRECT LABOR

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 22 Apr 86 p 1

[Article: "In Hanoi Many Installations Reorganize Production, Reduce Indirect Labor"]

[Text] Since the beginning of this year, in the skilled labor emulation movement of workers and civil servants in Hanoi many factories, corporations, and enterprises have taken the initiative in rearranging production, reducing indirect labor, readjusting the norms, eliminating irrational factors in production costs, etc. On that basis, internal accounting has been instituted for production departments and construction units and a system of material responsibility has been instituted in production and commerce.

In the construction sectors, 12 units in the materials production bloc reorganized production and eliminated 18 bureaus and sections and 320 indirect workers, equal to 25 percent of the indirect workers in the past. The units of the construction bloc, such as housing construction units 2 and 3, applied a new form of production organization with two levels--the unit and the corporation--and eliminated the construction site level. In many industrial installations the number of indirect workers is still under 10 percent, such as the Hanoi Leather Shoes Enterprise (6 percent) and the Bridge and Road Machinery Enterprise (8 percent).

During the first quarter, 98 units in the construction, grain, and public health sectors, and a number of colleges, provided employment for 7,245 out of a total of 9,577 redundant workers.

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POPULATION, CUSTOMS, AND CULTURE

VIETNAM

HANOI STEPS UP POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 7 May 86 p 2

[Article by Vuong Tuoc, Head of the Hanoi New Economic Zone Section: "Hanoi Renovates Working Method, Accelerates Rate of Population Redistribution"]

[Text] Within a 10-year period Hanoi has sent more than 5,700 families, totaling nearly 29,000 people and including more than 16,000 workers, to develop the new economic zones outside the city. But its annual rate of population increase has been between 30,000 and 45,000 people. With such a rate of population increase, despite intensive cultivation and increasing the number of growing seasons, which have increased the city's average rice yield to 62.7 quintals per hectare, many difficulties are still being encountered with regard to grain. Last year Dan Phuong attained a rice yield of 102 quintals per hectare, which led the districts outside the city, but because the average land area is less than 500 square meters per person, the population increase rate, which was 3.58 percent in 1980, declined to 2.28 percent in 1984 and in 1985 was still at the level of 2.03 percent. Therefore, many difficulties are still being encountered with regard to materials life.

In all, in 1985 the city's population increased by more than 51,000. According to estimates, by 1990, if the rate of population increase declines to 1.1 percent the absolute increase will still be nearly 32,000. At that time, the population of the municipality will be 2,937,000. Furthermore, in the course of expanding the municipality, every year capital construction causes a reduction of nearly 100 hectares of cultivated land. In order to reduce the municipality's economic-social difficulties between now and 1990 it is necessary to send at least 200,000 people beyond its borders. In order to attain that goal, there must be a strong transformation in ideological awareness in the party committee and governmental echelons, from the municipal level down to the basic level, about the necessity for renovating working methods in a manner appropriate to the economic-social characteristics of our country.

Creating New Consciousness

The transfer of labor and population has been taking place for decades. However, in places and at times there has been a lack of concern for

supervision and the annual norms have been underfulfilled. In 1985, a year with many transformations in that work, the municipality transferred 1,285 families, with 2,612 workers, to develop the new economic zones. The labor and population transfer mission for 1986 is 3,200 families and 8,400 workers. We believe that that is not only a matter of rapidly increasing number but of also bringing about a strong qualitative change. If the qualitative requirement is not met it will not be possible to bring about economic effectiveness in the new economic zones or to create a seething movement among the people. Some localities and basic units still take the distorted view that although the average per capita land area is 500 to 600 square meters, that will be sufficient for decades to come. Because of that view, the rate of population transfer has stood still.

The economic projects show that the in 1984 the per-capita grain output of Hanoi was 132.2 kilos per year. In 1985 it was only 129.7 kilos and by 1990 it will decline to 119 kilos. The relationship between population and grain production in Hanoi is at an alarming level!

Dan Phuong District, an advanced agricultural unit in the area outside the city, has a rice yield of 102 quintals per hectare, has a corn yield of 40.55 quintals per hectare, raises nearly 20,000 hogs, has an average marketed weight of 80 kilos per hogs, and has many traditional handicraft sectors and trades. But in general its agricultural production results are still far below the local consumption needs. In 1986 Dan Phuong is endeavoring to attain the norm of 34,000 tons of grain in paddy equivalent, so the per capita production level will not exceed 350 kilos. Hoai Duc is also a district with a tradition in intensive cultivation and grain production in general, but its average per capita output in 1985 was only 280 kilos. In some villages the population increase rate was too high. For example, it was 3.45 percent in Duc Giang and Tan Hoa, 3.28 percent in An Thuong, 3.54 percent in Tien Phuong, etc.

The actual situation of production and life shows that the party committee echelons and governmental administration of Hanoi must not only have centralized guidance in order to accelerate the rate of population transfer outside the city, but also must take positive steps to carry out family planning well and urgently lower the rate of natural population increase. The redistribution of labor and population must become an action goal of the party committee.

Hanoi is also a locality with great economic-industrial potential. On the basis of the production direction that has been determined for the economic zones it is necessary to send some industrial workers from the very beginning in order to form an agricultural-industrial structure at an early date, most immediately the agricultural products-food processing industry. The actual situation in the Duc Trong new economic zone (Lam Dong) has shown that in the second year the people produced large amounts of such subsidiary and food crops as alpinia, manioc, sugarcane, corn, etc. Failure to create processing industry installations at an early date will cause the peasants to lose part of their harvest, prevent the fulfillment of the circulation-distribution needs, and thus cause production to stagnate.

Do a Good Job of Preparing for Population Distribution

In coming years the redistribution of Hanoi's population will include both directions: on-the-spot redistribution carried out primarily by the districts and sending people outside the city in accordance with a central-level distribution plan. Difficulties are encountered in studying, surveying, and selecting resettlement areas outside the city for two reasons: first, the area which must be developed must begin all tasks, such as building roads, water conservancy projects, fields, housing, service projects, and public welfare projects; second, except for the labor sent in advance the total forces of a district cannot be mobilized. Therefore, in selecting areas to be developed it is necessary to observe the slogans "do the easy this first and the difficult things later" and "do the nearby things first and the distant things later."

Experience over a period of many years show that the ability of the population-receiving localities to study, survey, and draft economic-technical justifications is very limited. Therefore, Hanoi has concentrated all efforts, including manpower, materials and capital, on locating resettlement areas and collecting the necessary basic information to determine long-range production directions.

Hanoi's new working method is to, immediately after selecting an area, prepare conditions for creating collective economic units, set up village-level administrative units and, if there are conditions for doing so in the future, setting up new districts. Immediately after beginning production in anew economic zone it is necessary to follow the zone's production guidelines, based on the over-all plan of the population-receiving district. Therefore, there must be cooperation between the sending and receiving districts, beginning with the selection of the area, and the order in which the projects serving production and life will be built must be determined. The best way to determine the best areas is to have the heads of households visit them. It is necessary to organize Assault Youth units and make the district the unit which clears wasteland and prepares material bases so that after a few months families can be sent to the new zones. In preparing areas and in the process of transferring population there must be close coordination such relevant sectors as the planning commission and the financial, banking, agricultural, labor, and communications-transportation sectors, so that calculations and appropriate investment must be made in order to concentrate construction and bring the construction projects into use at an early date. At the conclusion of area preparations the population sending and receiving districts must reach agreement in all regards: determining the population areas, determining the order of basic construction projects, balancing the distribution of land for the collective economy with its distributions for the family economy, and gradually forming specialized cultivation areas, especially areas growing such long-term industrial crops as tea, coffee, and rubber. An extremely important task is determining capabilities to supply water and the need for its use in production and life, with priority in investment going to water conservancy projects.

Difficulties That Must Be Overcome

Hanoi employs all three population transfer forms: sending people to develop the state economy, to develop the collective economic zones, and to supplement existing labor. But after discussions were held with the provinces receiving additional labor (including those in the south and in the northern mountain region) it was determined that there is sufficient space to send only 150,000 people during the next 5 years. The lack of space to send 50,000 people is a problem the city cannot resolve by itself. The problem must be taken up promptly by the relevant central sectors. In redistributing population locally and sending people out of the municipality have improved only in the districts outside the city. The inner-city wards are still experiencing many difficulties and problems.

The differences in the strengths and trade skills of workers inside and outside the city must be better balanced in the process of redistributing population. Inner-city workers are strong with regard to handicraft trades and trades serving production and life. The party committee and governmental echelons at all levels in the wards and subwards must pay more attention to that matter.

We believe that the best way to redistribute the labor of the inner-city wards is to rely on the Youth Union and organize volunteer Assault Youth units to go to develop the new economic zones. The Hanoi Municipal Youth Union organization has certain experience in organizing and managing such units. Creating favorable conditions so that all youths can have jobs, especially in production, is not only significant economically but is also important in order to do a good job of maintaining political security and social order.

The problem that is posed here is that when sending industrial workers the city can boldly transfer part of the capital for investing in the construction of housing in the city to new economic zones, in order to increase construction capital to serve the lives of some of the workers who are sent. The relevant sectors in the city must promptly take steps to help the wards and districts organize economic alliances between the sending and receiving districts, on the basis of which to step up investment in the construction of material-technical bases to serve production, ensure that both sides benefit, and create a motive force for accelerating the redistribution of labor and population and make it more efficient.

Furthermore, the city must also promptly stipulate the rights and responsibilities of cadres, workers, teachers, public health cadres, etc., with regard to their participation in developing the new economic zones. At the same time, it must make stipulations regarding the rewarding and disciplining of the party committee echelons, governmental administrations, cadres, and party members with regard to the good, or poor, fulfillment of the mission of redistribution of labor and population locally and on a national scale.

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POPULATION, CUSTOMS, AND CULTURE

VIETNAM

ETHNIC MINORITY PEOPLE ADOPT FIXED CULTIVATION, HABITATION

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 22 May 86 p 1

[Article: "In Ha Tuyen and Song Be Ethnic Minority People Adopt Fixed Cultivation and Habitation, Develop Production"]

[Text] Twenty-one villages in the Hoang Su Phi border district (Ha Tuyen), in which 27,000 ethnic minority people live, are adopting fixed cultivation and habitation. The villages have set up and consolidated nearly 120 cooperatives and organized them into two economic zones. Eight villages in the first zone specialize in the production and intensive cultivation of rice, corn, and tea. The remaining villages, in the second zone, specialize in growing rice, corn, and soybeans.

Because they have cleared wasteland, expanded their area, and built water conservancy projects, the cooperatives have 6,353 hectares of land, plant more than 735 hectares in tea and nearly 747 hectares in soybeans, annually sell to the state hundreds of tons of tea buds and soybeans, and have increased the average per capita grain output to 21 kilos a month. The cooperatives have also built 200 medium and small water conservancy projects so that they can control irrigation on 2,300 hectares, and have planted 600 hectares of forest trees, including nearly 300 hectares of camellia. They are raising 1,300 water buffaloes, cattle, and horses, 1,400 hogs, and many other kinds of livestock and poultry.

With the slogan "The state and the people work together," the people in the fixed cultivation and habitation areas in the district have contributed to building 177 kilometers of motor roads and local roads to serve production and combat, and have built 94 collective welfare installations. Furthermore, the people have built three sanitation projects--water wells, bath houses, and toilets--planned and developed the hamlets and villages in accordance with the cultured way of life, eliminated bad customs and superstitions, and opposed the enemy's multifaceted war of destruction.

To date, 90 percent of the ethnic minority people in Loc Ninh District, Song Be Province, have adopted fixed cultivation and habitation. The Khmer people in Quyet Thang village have created 200 hectares of one-season wet rice and 40 hectares of two-season rice fields, are raising 280 draft buffaloes, and have increased the average annual grain output to 315 kilos. Quyet Thang village has become one of the province's advanced units. The cooperative is now investing additional capital and labor in growing long-term and short-term industrial crops to create additional sources of export goods.

POPULATION, CUSTOMS, AND CULTURE

VIETNAM

POPULATION GROWTH DOWN IN 1985, STILL HIGH

Ho Chi Minh SAIGON GIAI PHONG in Vietnamese 20 Mar 86 pp 1, 4

[Article by DT: "The family planning campaign in our country initially was linked to economic and social development; it helped lower the percentage of population expansion, and substantially reduce the number of women who would give birth to a third child"]

[Text] The National Population and Family Planning Committee reported that in 1985 our country had 1,549,072 births. The population growth percentage was 2.05 percent compared to that of 1984, the decrease was 0.18 percent. Along with the slowed population growth, population structure also changed. The number of those under working age has decreased and that of those of working age has been increasing. The percentage of the working women who would give birth to the third baby conspicuously decreased from 40 or 42 percent in 1979 to 15 or 20 percent in 1985. The number of mothers giving birth to a third child in the whole country decreased from 53 percent in 1979 to 40 percent. The number of persons applying family planning is growing larger and larger. In 1985, there were millions of persons who applied different contraceptive methods.

The campaign revealed progressive examples in provinces and cities such as in Thai Binh, Haiphong, Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Quang Nam, Danang, Nghia Binh, and Tien Giang. Thai Binh, the only province where the population expansion percentage was lowered to 1.55 percent, headed the whole country.

The family planning campaign in our country showed substantial changes. However, the number of girls marrying before age 20 was still high and while the percentage of women who would give birth to the third child onward has decreased the rate of decrease is still slow.

In the Mekong delta, coastal delta, and in the highland of central Vietnam, the percentage of women having children early and in large numbers or bearing children at advanced age is still higher than other places.

In general, the family planning campaign developed unevenly. There are still areas where the problem is not getting proper consideration, therefore, the population expansion percentage is still high in Ha Son Binh, Thanh Hoa, Binh Tri Thien, Son La, Lai Chau, Vinh Phu, Thuan Hai, Song Be, An Giang, Hau Giang, Lam Dong, Gia Lai, and Cong Tum.

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POPULATION, CUSTOMS, AND CULTURE

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

THANH HOA ASSAULT YOUTHS--On 11 April the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of Thanh Hoa Province organized 1,000 Assault Youth members to set out to develop a new home area in Dac Lac Province. They went to Dac Lac to prepare for larger numbers of workers to follow. Thousands of people in the city of Thanh Hoa, along with a number of leadership cadres of the province and the Youth Union Central Committee, saw off the Assault Youth units with confidence that the Thanh Hoa youths will achieve merit in the new areas. [Text] [Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 14 Apr 86 p 1] 5616

DUYEN HAI RADIO STATION--Duyen Hai District (Ho Chi Minh City) has constructed a central wired radio broadcasting station in the town of Can Gio and 16 basic broadcasting stations in all seven villages, thus making a positive contribution to serving the cultural lives of the people in the district, who are concentrated in 20 population centers. [Text] [Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 14 Apr 86 p 1] 5616

CSO: 4209/554

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VIETNAM

SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL ASSOCIATION FORMED IN HO CHI MINH CITY

Paris DOAN KET in Vietnamese No 379, Apr 86 p 32

[Article by Nguyen Xuan Oanh: "Professional Activity and Staffs for Leadership"]

[Text] To put it briefly, the Ho Chi Minh City Scientific and Technical Association has two principal missions which are closely interrelated: first, to bring people together in order to organize common activities and work together in a certain "light" form; and second, serving as a staff for leadership. Leadership, of course, has research organs to assist it and serve as its staffs. However, in many instances it is clear that leadership must hear, and wants to hear, "independent" advice, counter-arguments from "outside the state," and bold, truthful opinions. Only if it fulfills that mission outstandingly and effectively can the Association's authority carry any weight and prestige in appealing for people to participate. On the other hand, only if its organization has activities that are attractive, regular, and useful professionally can it retain its members, and only then can its staff work be effective.

Therefore, we can imagine five activity forms the Association could develop:

1. Forums: the association may invite municipal leadership cadres, directors of bureaus and sections, and directors of corporations and enterprises, or speakers who are foreigners, to make reports, raise issues, and give briefings. It may invite economists, managers, and researchers in general to present specialized reports. Within that activity form it may organize symposiums on a number of topics.
2. Library work: the Association will go all-out organize a library which will stress first of all publications that were published during the recent period, in our country and abroad, for research by its members.
3. Publishing: in addition to publishing articles by researchers with an "internal circulation" nature and translations, the Association may request permission to publish a social science journal every 2 months or every month, depending on capabilities and facilities.

4. Training: it may be said that the Association duplicates the work of the schools and institutes, but the experiences of a number of advanced and developing countries show that the schools and institutes cannot satisfy all training requirements of society, and training for society ordinarily has contents and methods that differ from professional and specialized training such as ours. The training program is aimed at people who are now doing actual work, so its contents must be practical, and its methodology must be relatively new and easily understood and easily understood, such as the case study method.

5. Research: thanks to its capability to gather together the leading people and because of the broad extent of its work, the Association can contribute by researching a number of strategic matters as well as a number of specific topics. The Association does not intend to replace the research of the present schools and centers, but clearly it is capable of carrying out parallel research of a number of topics "independently" and comfortably, in order to contribute its own solution.

The Association has the concern and support of the Municipal Party Committee and the Municipal People's Committee. Furthermore, its activities meet its own expenses. The era in which we are living is a commercial era in the good sense of the word. Only commerce can determine the value of services we render for society, and only it can determine actual value, so the society can exist and develop more strongly according to it than by operating in the subsidized manner.

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CSO: 4209/551

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VIETNAM

HO CHI MINH CITY FORMS SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL FEDERATION

Paris DOAN KET in Vietnamese No 379, Apr 86 p 31

[Article: "Ho Chi Minh City Sets Up Federation of Scientific and Technical Associations"]

[Text] Gathering together and developing the great potential of the corps of scientific-technical cadres in Ho Chi Minh City is the goal of the Municipal Federation of Scientific and Technical Associations, which held its inaugural congress on 14 January 1986. Mr. Nguyen Van Linh, a member of the Political Bureau of the VCP Central Committee and secretary of the Municipal Party Committee; Mr. Tran Dai Nghia, chairman of the Vietnamese Federation of Scientific and Technical Associations; Mr. Duong Hong Dat, deputy secretary of the State Scientific-Technical Commission; and Nguyen Thien Phuc, chairman of the Hanoi Municipal Scientific-Technical Federation, were in attendance.

At present Ho Chi Minh City has more than 50,000 cadres with post-graduate levels who have been trained in 30 countries all over the world. Although in past years those cadres have made notable contributions, with the old mechanism the city's scientific and technical forces have not fully developed their capabilities. The formation of the Federation of Scientific and Technical Associations was the first step in improving organization that are appropriate to the new requirements of the city's scientists and enable those scientific-technical forces to truly become direct production forces.

The congress elected a provisional executive committee of 56 people, including a 15-member standing committee chaired by Mr. Chu Pham Ngoc Son. As an organization which is a successor to the Patriotic Intellectuals Association, which fulfilled its historic role, the Federation of Scientific and Technical Associations of Ho Chi Minh City is a member of the Vietnamese Federation of Scientific and Technical Associations and a member of the Municipal Fatherland Front.

The Municipal Party Committee Criticizes Itself

On behalf of the Municipal Party Committee, Mr. Nguyen Van Linh appealed for the city's intellectuals to endeavor to apply many more scientific advances to

serve life and production, boldly express constructive opinions, and contribute positively to eliminating the bureaucratic centralism-state subsidy mechanism and to changing over to a new working method.

In concluding, Mr. Nguyen Van Linh stressed:

"The Municipal Party Committee would like to criticize itself with regard to eliciting the contributions of intellectuals. Although it has made many all-out efforts in the recent period it has not yet been able to create many good conditions for them to research, experiment, and keep up with the unceasing scientific-technical advances in the world, the system of benefits is not yet appropriate, and the leading intellectuals have not been meticulously cared for. Intellectuals are still experiencing difficulties in their lives. Now and there are still manifestations of an incorrect attitude toward them. We must also add that there is no policy to encourage, and create favorable conditions for, Vietnamese intellectuals to participate in developing science and technology and contribute to developing the Fatherland.

"Self-criticism does not mean that those remaining problems will be eliminated in only a day or two, but we want to say that we realize that some things are not yet good and will endeavor to overcome them as soon as possible. If they are to be overcome, I hope that you will positively contribute opinions to us.

"I recommend that each specialized association in the Federation keep the Municipal Party Committee informed, not only of its accomplishments and contributions but also of its difficulties and obstacles, including the association members' living and working conditions, so that the Municipal Party Committee can study and amend the regulations and policies in an increasingly timely manner and more satisfactorily, under our still-limited conditions at present. Every scientist may send letters directly to us concerning matters of common interest, as well as reporting to us on problems and difficulties in work and life. With a spirit of positiveness and cooperation, I am certain that we will rapidly find a way out."

DOAN KET has published in this issue a speech by the economist Nguyen Xuan Oanh on the occasion of the inaugural congress (from TUOI TRE 28 January 1986) and the thoughts of geologist Tran Kim Thach on Revolution 8, which eliminated the bureaucratic centralism-state subsidy system (DAI DOAN KET 1 January 1986).

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CSO: 4209/551

PUBLICATIONS

VIETNAM

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF THANH NIEN MARCH 1986

Hanoi THANH NIEN in Vietnamese Mar 86 p 32

[Text] Resolution 26 of the Political Bureau and Leadership of Youths in Army
(pp 1-6) (Article by Senior General Chu Huy Man)

Fighting and Growing up Under the Proud Banner of the Party (pp 7-11)
(Article by Vu Mao)

The Role of Lenin Youth Union in the Soviet Political System (pp 12-14)
(Article by Pham Dinh Nghiep)

A New Offensive of the Soviet Youth on Science-Technology (pp 15-16)
(Article by Xuan Gioi)

More Discussion About Two Modes of Youth Union Activities (pp 17-18,21)
(Article by Tran Hoang Linh)

New Features of Quang Ninh Assault Youth General Unit (pp 19-21)
(Article by Ngoc Tinh)

Youth Neighborhoods (pp 22, 23) (Article by Nguyen Hoang Thuc)

Beginning With a Poem (pp 23,24,31) (Article by Bui Lam)

Strengthening Organization of Theoretical and Political Educational Activities
for Youths and Students (pp 25-27)
(Article by Nguyen Minh Anh)

Teaching Family Matters to the Young (pp 28-29)
(Article by Van Ly and Hong Nhung)

Consumption and the Worship of Material Things (pp 30-31)
(Article by Kim Ngoc)

5598

CSO: 4209/558

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